

WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

Handbook for New Christians



Hollis McGehee

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aimingforjesus.com

Congratulations on your new birth in Christ!

Trusting Jesus as your Lord and Savior is the most important decision you will ever make. When you were born again you went from being spiritually dead (separated from God forever) to be spiritually alive (brought back to God forever). This is a simple guide to help you as you begin your new life as a Christian. This book is not important but the guidance you can find here is very important to your life as a Christian.

“By God’s grace I have been saved, born again, but what’s next - how do I now live a new life in Christ?”

This book is a short straightforward guide book for living as a Christ follower - becoming more like Jesus day by day - all by God’s grace.

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I. ■ AM I REALLY SAVED ?

Salvation is only by saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ - that you put your trust in what Jesus has already done for you:

- Jesus who is / has always been - God - God the Son
- Came to earth and lived a perfect / sinless life
- Went to the cross (in my place and yours) and died in our place
- and paid for our sin fully once for all forever
- The third day after burial Jesus was raised from dead
- Afterwards, he appeared to many (over 500 people)
- He went up to heaven with his disciples watching
- At the end of time he is coming back

Being saved - born again - is not an emotion it is all about faith and trust in the finished work of Jesus:

11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. 1 John 5:11–12 (ESV)

No one is saved by any means other than this:

8For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

9not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV)

Salvation is a gift (grace) from God that we can never earn.

The gift is received by faith (trust) in the Lord Jesus Christ.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16, ESV)

If, by God’s gift of love (Jesus) you have been born again by putting your faith / trust fully in Jesus Christ and what he has done for you on the cross and by his burial and resurrection - then you are saved and you are safely ‘home’

“because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” (Romans 10:9–10, ESV)

Once we are born again we have this promise from God:

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1, ESV)

Nothing can pull a born again Christian away from his place with God through Jesus Christ.

“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor

depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38–39, ESV)

Thankfully, God doesn’t make us wonder about where we are with him - he makes it clear!

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know that you have eternal life.**” (1 John 5:13, ESV)

God promises eternal life as a gift from God (grace) when we put our faith (trust / belief) in Jesus Christ and what he has done for us. It is all from God and so our lives are to be lived to God!

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1–2, ESV)

SUMMARY: YES, you are really saved because of God’s promise, His character, and Jesus. It is not a feeling but a decision you make. The Bible does not say you must feel saved so do not be discouraged. There is no room for doubt (James 1:6-8).

II. ■ WHO IS GOD ?

God is and has always been. He is the un-created (not created but he has always been) Creator of all things.

There is one God who exists from all eternity in three distinct persons:

- God the Father

- God the Son - Jesus Christ

- God the Holy Spirit

God shows us in the first book of the Bible (Genesis) that he put us here to have dominion (be caretakers) over the earth and to have husbands and wives and children and grandchildren and so to populate the earth.

When God had just finished creating man / woman (Adam and Eve) God had them in a special place and he personally visited with them daily in the Garden of Eden.

But Adam and Eve rejected what God said and instead believed Satan - they did what God said not to do (they sinned) and this caused a separation because God is perfect and he cannot have anything to do with sin. God hates sin. So, because we are descended from Adam we are all born separated from God (spiritually dead) and we remain that way until Jesus we receive the gift that God has for us in Christ Jesus.

When Jesus (he is God and has always been just as God the Father has always been) came in the form of a baby he came for the purpose of dying in your place and mine. His death was to pay for all of our (everyone's) sin in full and complete. Jesus did just that and then was raised from dead on the third day and was seen by over 500 eyewitnesses and then later he went to heaven to his Father.

God the Holy Spirit lives in us and as we trust God and obey the Holy Spirit is our guide daily along life's paths. The Holy Spirit is God and deserves our ever increasing praise and thanksgiving just as God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son.

God never changes. God is always right, fair, just, loving, gracious, forgiving and merciful - and so shall he ever be forever

and ever.

God is a giving God - he gave Jesus for you and me. We too must be generous givers - no matter what we have it all is a gift from God and just as God has been generous to us - so we must with whatever we have be generous as well.

Summary:

God is our Creator and he has redeemed us from death to life in Christ Jesus for eternity.

III. I AM SAVED BUT WHAT DO I DO NOW TO STAY THAT WAY?

“Okay, I got it. I see now that I am saved and I know it. Now, I want to live all in for Jesus. But I have so far to go - what do I do now?”

You didn’t save your self and you don’t keep yourself saved

Remember - you didn’t save yourself and you can’t ‘keep yourself saved’ - Jesus has done all of this for us because we could never do it for ourselves - ever !

We can’t save ourselves nor can we keep ourselves saved. However, God saved us to be strong Christians and to serve him - so how do we do that? By growing in our faith - maturing in our spirit just like we mature physically in our bodies.

“I want to grow in my Christian faith, how do I do that?”

What a very important question and the answer is really simple but the process is continuous and lasts a lifetime.

“What’s my first step to growing in my faith?”

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33, ESV)

What does it mean to seek first kingdom of God and his righteousness?

Put God first - give him the place of greatest importance that he absolutely deserves and requires. God is our highest priority - no matter what. We will all fail at this and fall away from this but we need to confess and turn back to God as our priority.

“Great, I want to do that but I am new to faith, how do I put God first in all things?”

We need to know God as he reveals himself in His Word.

We need to learn to fully trust God that he is who he says and he does everything he says he will do and he never changes. It is a matter of trust and obey!

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5–6, ESV)

I want to know and trust God but how do I get there?

Well, think about this: how do you come to know and trust other people?

Spend time with them / listen to them / speak with them and learn to trust them

It’s the same with God - Spend time with God.

Learn by experience that God is who he says and he does what he promises - without failure and without exception.

Trust him now and learn to grow in trust day by day.

Just like we read in Proverbs 3:5-6 - we put our trust in God and not in our ways and our thinking - but in all that we do we seek to do it God's way. It is a life long process. It is a challenge and it is a joy.

SUMMARY: I'M SAVED NOW HOW DO I STAY SAVED?

God saves us and God keeps us. But we cultivate this gift with God's word, prayer, fellowship, praise, worship, and service.

Please note that now you are walking in the light of God's presence through the Holy Spirit there may be areas of darkness in your life that are exposed and you may feel more sinful than before. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in your life and does not negate your salvation. All your enemies have been defeated...by Jesus. He permits us to claim his victory.

IV. THE BIBLE - THE LIVING WORD OF GOD

The Holy Bible is made up of 66 'books' that were all written by people but they were each inspired by God to write - they are the ones that put 'the words on the page' but God is the Author.

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17, ESV)

The Bible is God's guidebook for our lives. Every single question we have and every challenge we face in our lives are all covered in the Bible. The Bible is true from Genesis to Revelation. It is without error.

When you think of the Bible don't think of old dusty books and long ago sayings - no here is the true picture of the Word of God:

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12, ESV)

God’s Word is our guide. We have to commit daily to spend time with the Word of God (spiritual food for our spiritual life just like we have physical food for our physical lives). We must apply what we learn from God’s word lest we become spiritually obese yet experience very little growth, wisdom, and maturity.

Summary:

The Bible is spiritual food that we each need every day. It is God’s guidance to us and every question we have is in the Bible. The Bible is right in every way. I don’t need to figure out what I think about something but what has God said. God is speaking to me personally when I open his living word every day. THE BIBLE: God’s love letter to you...to be studied daily and read aloud. “Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.” (Rom. 10:17)

V. HOW DO I SPEND TIME WITH GOD - TO GET TO KNOW HIM?

Spending time with God is done in a variety of ways:

- first and foremost - ‘listening’ to God as he speaks to you in his Word - the Holy Bible (more on this in a moment)
- giving yourself over to God (Romans 12:1-2)
- listening and talking to God in prayer - it is a communion with God and Jesus has given us a great outline to follow (Matthew 6:9-13)

- finding a Christ centered local church / fellowship where the Word of God is both taught and modeled by the leaders of the local church and then gathering with other Christians for worship and prayer
- singing hymns and spiritual songs and psalms to God
- loving your neighbors
- hiding the Word of God in your heart (memorization)
- thinking deeply on Word of God (meditation)

A. Read the Bible daily. Word of God is food for your spirit just as physical food fuels our bodies - if we don't eat we get weak and we will fall sooner or later. If we don't spend time reading and thinking (digesting) God's Word then we will be spiritually weak and unstable.

- "The Bible is so big, where do I start?"

Don't worry about how much you read

Focus on getting the goodie out of what you do read.

- Try this for a month

Rise earlier than normal (give yourself at least 20 uninterrupted minutes - at the least) and read from the Gospel of John (fourth book in the new testament)

In the evening, before you are too tired, read a chapter from Proverbs (in the Old Testament) - pick out whichever chapter matches the day of the month - for example on the 1st read chapter one, on the 10th read Chapter ten and so forth.

Keep a small notebook with you and look out for anywhere that God is giving you a command (something to do) a warning (something to avoid), a promise (something to depend on), any other thing God is saying to you.

There is no hurry - I would suggest going through the Gospel of John at least twice.

When finished with John, read the Gospel of Mark (2nd book of New Testament) in the morning and Genesis (first book of Bible) in the evening and still manage to work in some time for Proverbs for each day of the month.

In the 3rd month begin reading the book of Romans (6th book of the New Testament)

Don't hurry, take time to take in all that God is saying.

Continue to move through all of the books in the New Testament - and when you finish Genesis read the next book - Exodus - and so forth.

B. Give yourself away to God daily (more often when necessary)

Literally, talk to God and give yourself to him every day and multiple times a day "Lord, you created me, you saved me, you sustain me, I exist to be in a love relationship with you through Jesus Christ - now I give myself to you - I don't want to be like the world around me i want to be shaped by Jesus."

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2, ESV)

C. Praying - time alone with God - listening and speaking

Pray with our hearts—with our whole heart we seek after God in prayer, and as the most vital part of prayer we listen to God in his Word. It is absolutely impossible to read Scripture and pray to God too much. Pray as often as you can, as long as you can,

about anything/anyone you can, for as long as ever you can.
When you finish, pray and read some more. The “how” to pray is to frame your prayer in and from your heart, not your intellect. We pray because we have hearts after God.

It is not that you cease to live ‘your life’ anymore but it is that you have a new highest priority: God and we give him first call on our time so we make time for God and then the rest of our lives. This is to honor God but it also will be a substantial blessing to us as we adjust to God first way of living.

We don’t pray nearly as much about trying to get something from God; we pray to give ourselves more completely to God—not my will on earth, but his will in me/you! Prayer is not a thing we do; it is the life we are called to live. We should only forget to pray as we might abandon breathing—never as long as there is breath left. We breathe in the Holy Spirit and oxygen, breathe out prayer to the God who gives us the breath.

When you pray, never forget what is actually happening: you are not speaking words into empty air; when a born-again child of God prays, you are heard by the Creator, who is always listening. God is exceedingly glad to hear from his children; he knows exactly what is needed, and he is willing and ready not just to hear our prayers but to answer our prayers—perfectly every time, all the time, for all time. God our Father is more ready to hear and answer us than we are ready to call upon him.

Pray as Jesus taught us to pray in Matthew 6

- first recognize God for who he is - he is God and give

Him thanks and honor him by praising his name - reverence for God

- Jesus prayed God's will be done and so must we - we are asking God to accomplish what he wants in us and in others - we are agreeing with God that the best thing is for earth to be like it is in heaven - God's will in all things

- ask God to meet our needs and trust him to do it - doesn't mean we abandon our part but it does mean at the end of our part we don't 'worry' we trust God to provide for all of our needs in Christ Jesus.

- acknowledge our sin and seek forgiveness and likewise give forgiveness to all who have done anything against us

- pray for God to intervene in life's circumstances and help us to live Godly lives - trusting him and knowing he hears and answers our prayers - always seeking God's best for all others - those close to us and those who would just as soon kill us as look at us

-give glory to God and acknowledge him as God over all

Praying is listening to God (his Word) and talking to God - just speaking in plain language the things we are concerned for and asking that it all be his way because we know his way is perfect and ours are not.

D. Finding and joining a local church where the Word of God is both properly taught and demonstrated in the lives of the leaders and others. Gathering with others in honor of God - worship / praise

"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." (Hebrews 10:25, ESV)

There are many buildings with the word "church" in the name - however, tragically many of these are not a local church as is needed. You must find one where the Word of God is taught and

demonstrated in spirit and truth.

“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3:12–17, ESV)

When we gather, whether it be a Sunday morning worship service, Wednesday evening prayer meeting or just a get together with one or more other Christians - it is an opportunity to grow and encourage one another to grow - we must not neglect gathering together because all of us have something to give and we can receive valuable things from one another because of the presence of Jesus Christ in us.

“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.” (Proverbs 27:17, ESV)

“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.” (Romans 1:11–12, ESV)

E. Singing hymns and spiritual songs with one another

- Recently, I had the corona virus and when i got home i was feeling very lonely and afraid - my first full day home my wife Elaine said “let’s sing some hymns together”. While I didn’t ‘feel’ like singing - I did / we did. Within less than fifteen minutes of singing these old hymns my spirits were lifted and I was reminded of God’s provision and the rest we have in him - it was well with my soul!

- I cannot overstate how instrumental singing hymns has been for me in growing in my walk with the Lord

- Get an old hymnal and keep it with your Bible and use it daily - God will be honored, you will be blessed and you will grow in your life long path of Christ likeness!

F. “Love your neighbors as yourself” Jesus taught

- How do I accomplish loving my neighbor as myself?

“Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?” (Matthew 16:24–26, ESV)

- Jesus never stopped loving ‘his neighbor’ even in the most difficult of times - this is the heart of who Jesus is because when asked to state what is the one greatest commandment of God he didn’t give one but gave two:

““Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments

depend all the Law and the Prophets.”” (Matthew 22:36–40, ESV)

The key to knowing God in loving others is to know that God doesn't love us because of who we are or because of what he has done but it is his nature. So, when we spend time with God - and we get this picture of his call on us to love people not because of what they do / don't do but because they are people - made in the image of God.

“Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.” (Matthew 18:21–22, ESV)

When we learn the call Jesus has on us to love our neighbors and treat them as we want to be treated then we start to see the reality of Christlikeness being formed in us.

Don't try to think of what we think they deserve or even what they did - but that God so loved me that he sent his only Son to die in my place (John 3:16) not because I did something good but while I am at my sinful worse (Romans 5:8).

G. Hiding the Word of God in your heart

“I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” (Psalm 119:11, ESV)

When Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert where he underwent temptation - everytime the enemy - Satan - opened his mouth Jesus responded with the Word of God.

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves

of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, “ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “ ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “ ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’ ” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’ ” Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.” (Matthew 4:1–11, ESV)

We win the battle when we know the tools of our ‘warfare’ -

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12, ESV)

Don’t go out without your sword! Hide the Word of God in our hearts and we are always dressed for battle.

(See Appendix A for a list of scriptures I think we should begin to memorize)

H. To meditate on the Word of God

To meditate on God’s Word is simply to think on it more deeply - to draw from it the fullness of the meaning God has for us in his Word.

When we have hidden God's Word in our hearts, then we can, at any time, draw up His Word from deep within and meditate on it as we walk / drive / sit quietly ... you can meditate simultaneously with any activity that is not contrary to the will of God.

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (Joshua 1:8, ESV)

The world has an economy and so does God - but God's economy (how God does things and how he calls us to live) is eternal and it is always trending up. We may know little of the world's economy but God's economy should be the heart and soul of our lives.

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” (Psalm 1:1–3, ESV)

Growing in Christ likeness is to make a firm commitment to not be shaped by the world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds on the things of God - Word of God!

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8, ESV)

SUMMARY: Adopt a life of Bible study and prayer. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you (James 4:8). Spend time with God. Read Exodus 33:7-11 and note verse 11 and study the life of Joshua.

VI. ■ FIND A CHURCH HOME

It is very important for us to find a local church family where we can grow into ‘spiritual’ adulthood. These are the basic requirements for a solid local church.

A. They preach and teach the Word of God from the Holy Bible and recognize that the Bible is the Word of God and must be used as our guide in all things.

B. Where the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ (read John 3:16-17, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Romans 5:8, Romans 10:9-10, Ephesians 2:8-9) is being followed and taught with clarity.

C. The pastor is not just saying the words but it is obvious that he has experienced / is experiencing the reality of what he is teaching - he lives out what he teaches.

D. The doors are open to all sinners to come in for ‘living water’ from Jesus Christ.

SUMMARY: CHURCH HOME: Go slow here. Takes time. Be attentive. Be honest with yourself in what you see and what you hear before deciding where to become a part of church fellowship. You must be grounded in God’s word.

VII. FIND A MENTOR TO HELP YOU GROW AND HOLD YOU ACCOUNTABLE

Ask God to direct you to a person you see who is living a life that reflects what you are reading in the Word of God. Work on developing a relationship with him / her (men for men and ladies for ladies). When you get together (hopefully at least once a week) allow them to hold you accountable for your daily walk and honestly share with them what your struggles are.

Listen to how they are growing and seeking a closer walk with God....

Summary: Do not be quick to become attached to anyone - Jesus is our ultimate mentor and guide. God will show you someone who is living and sharing the life God calls us to and then after time and careful observation you might find someone who can be a special encourager to you (another guy for guys and another lady for ladies). In the meantime and for the rest of our lives - all Christians are our fellow helpers and fellow laborers and we can learn from all but mostly we learn as God the Holy Spirit in us leads us.

VIII. TRUST AND OBEY GOD IN ALL THINGS

(here are a few basic things God tells us to do)

- Matthew 22:36–40 (ESV)

36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”

37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

38 This is the great and first commandment.

39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

- Acts 16:31 (ESV)

31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."

- Matthew 6:33 (ESV)

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

- 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV)

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Joshua 1:8 (ESV)

8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

- Hebrews 10:25 (ESV)

25 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.

- Luke 6:37 (ESV)

37 "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven;

- Philippians 2:14 (ESV)

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing,

- 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (ESV)

16 Rejoice always,

17 pray without ceasing,

18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- James 1:27 (ESV)

27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

There are many other things God has said we must do - these you will discover over the rest of your life. The commands included here are just a sample of the commands that God has given us.

SUMMARY-TRUST AND OBEY: Essential to be grounded in God's word. This can be a point of attack by the enemy (sin nature, Satan, culture values) that may risk some compromise of values.

IX. GOD'S PROMISES TO YOU AND TO ALL WHO ARE BORN AGAIN IN CHRIST

PROMISES OF GOD (these are but a few of God's promises)

- 2 Peter 1:4 (ESV)

4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

- Jeremiah 29:11 (ESV)

11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

- Matthew 11:28–29 (ESV)

28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

- Isaiah 40:29–31 (ESV)

29 He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

30 Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;

31 but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

- Philippians 4:19 (ESV)

19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

- Romans 8:1 (ESV)

1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

- Romans 8:28–29 (ESV)

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the

firstborn among many brothers.

- Romans 8:37–39 (ESV)

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,

39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Proverbs 1:33 (ESV)

33 but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.”

- Joshua 1:7 (ESV)

7 Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.

- Romans 6:23 (ESV)

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Romans 10:9 (ESV)

9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

SUMMARY GOD’S PROMISE: Keep a written list of God’s promises to memorize. God is faithful and would never promise anything and not follow through.

CONCLUSION

There is no 'conclusion - a life of following Jesus is a lifelong process - we will never 'get through' - no one learns and carries out all that God has for us.

The question we have to ask is this: Am I willing to trust my life fully to God? He wants it all. If anything is held back, then there remains a stronghold for failure. If the answer is 'yes' then start now and the Holy Spirit of God will be by your side through this earthly life journey. - just pray a prayer like this:

"Lord, thank you for saving me. Now, help me to live fully for you Lord. I don't know all the answers, but I know that following you is the best thing in my life. Help me Lord to daily commit myself to loving and serving and following you; to spend time alone with you through your Word - the Holy Bible - in prayer - in thinking / meditating on your Word; Help me God to trust you with all my heart and help me to not now or ever do things based on my thinking but on your living Word. Amen."

That is what the Christian life consists of - loving and serving God - loving and sharing with others as you follow Jesus; and allow them to share with you as they follow Jesus Christ.

God bless you and if I can help you in any way, especially in the finding and settling into a Christ centered, Bible teaching / preaching / believing Church then please let me know. You can reach me through Facebook, email, and web page - all keyed to my name – Hollis McGehee.

Please contact another Christian or me if you like in two weeks to talk about how things are going and to help with any 'road blocks' you may have encountered.

Here is the thing: we are all struggling with the same issues - we can and must help one another. Let's make sure we each reach out to other Christians - we will be helped and they will be

encouraged. God will bless each one of us in this.

"And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;"
(Colossians 1:9-10, ESV)



Hollis McGehee lives in Covington with his wife Elaine. They are both self-described as 'works in progress' - saved by grace and led by the Holy Spirit except when we get in the way. Their desire is to serve God by loving people as and when they encounter them - trying to see all people as God sees them. Hollis is the author of several other works:

Judicial Beatitudes, Follow Him In All Things, Follow Him In Thought And Word, A River To Cross (a story of life), When You Give, and When You Pray. For more information and for other tools for growth in Christlikeness find Hollis at hollismcgehee.com, Facebook, Twitter, Youtube (Follow Him Ministry) and Soundcloud.

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