Exploring the Christian Life
PART TWO

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1. Where Do I Go From Here?

When you become a Christian:

1 **Tell Others**

**THE GOOD NEWS**

Jesus said to the demoniac:

‘Go Home’ and tell what great things the Lord has done for you

Mark 5. 19 - 20

Jesus said to His disciples:

‘Go into all the World’ and preach the gospel to every creature’

Mark 16. 15.

The Gospel is God’s ‘Good News’

Be ready to share it.

John 4. 39.


Don’t be ashamed of it

Romans 1. 16.

2 Corinthians 4. 3.

**NOTES**

1. *Where Do I Go From Here?*

   **YOU SHALL BE WITNESSES TO ME**
   
   Acts 1. 8

   **TELL THEM YOUR TESTIMONY.**
   **‘HOW YOU CAME TO CHRIST’.**
   **MAKE IT CHRIST CENTRED.**
   **KEEP IT SHORT**
### 2 Show Others - Be Baptized

‘Then they that gladly received his word were baptised’  
Acts 2. 41

**Baptism** is an act of  
Obedience  
Confession  
Identification

**Being baptised will show others you have become a Christian**  
Mark 16. 16.

**What it signifies.**

When you go into the water  
You confess you ‘died with Christ’

When you go under the water  
You confess you are ‘buried with Christ’

When you come out of the water  
You confess to live a ‘new life’ for Christ

Those who became Christians in the New Testament were immediately baptised  
Acts 8. 36 - 38; 18. 8.

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**How important is it to obey Christ’s command to be baptised?**
15. Is Jesus Christ Coming Again?

(1) The Promise Of Christ

'I will come again' John 14. 3.

(a) The Promise is Certain
   'I will come'

(b) The Promise is Significant
   'The Lord Himself will descend from heaven'
      1 Thessalonians 4. 16.

The Lord Jesus will come -
   Personally
   Bodily
   Literally

(2) The Purpose Of His Coming

To raise the dead in Christ.
   1 Thessalonians 4. 16.
To change the Christians living still on earth.
   1 Corinthians 15. 52.
To catch away both, those who were dead and those who are alive, to meet the Lord Himself in the air, to be with Him forever.
   1 Thessalonians 4. 17

2 Join Others in Local Church Fellowship

New believers were added to the Church at Jerusalem
   Acts 2 v 41

What is the Church?

The word 'Church' means
A 'called out' Assembly.

Those who believed and were baptised were added to the Church (called out assembly) at Jerusalem Acts 2 v 41, 47.

In a similar way local Churches were planted at Antioch, Corinth, and in many other places.
   Acts 13 v 1. 1 Corinthians 1 v 1-3

Christians in Local Churches:

Fellowshipped together.
Learnt God's word together.
   Acts 2 v 42.
Prayed together.
Celebrated the Lord's Supper together.
   Acts 2. 42; 12. 5, 12; 20. 7
   1 Corinthians 11. 33 - 34.
Functioned together.
   (like members in a human body)

3 Where Do I Go From Here?

How would you assess the importance of local Church fellowship?
7. How Should I Read The Bible?

THE BIBLE is:
Unique
Reliable
Inspired
Authoritative

THE BIBLE is the:
Christian's Manual for Life:

READ IT FOR DAILY:
Guidance Psalm 119. 105.
Cleansing Psalm 119. 9
Growth 1 Peter 2. 2
Victory Matthew 4. 1-11.

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE.
Develop a regular pattern
Retire to a quiet place
Ask God to speak to you from it
Read through a book of the Bible chapter by chapter.

Ask yourself the following questions:
What does it say?
What does it mean?
How does it apply to me?

14. Where Will I Go After Death?

(1) WHEN THE CHRISTIAN DIES
The soul leaves the body of the Christian immediately and goes to Heaven -
   (a) To be with Christ
       Philippians 1. 23
       2 Corinthians 5. 8
   (b) To the Father's house
       where there is fullness of joy
       John 14. 2.
       Psalm 16. 11.

(2) WHEN THE NON-CHRISTIAN, (the unbeliever) DIES.
The soul leaves the body of the non-Christian immediately and goes into Hell - where

   Pleas are refused
   Torment is unalleviated
   A great gulf is fixed
   There Is no second chance
   Luke 16. 19 - 31
8. When and How Should I Pray?

‘Men ought always to pray and not to faint’ Luke 18.1

Prayer is to God the Father
Matthew 6.6
Through His Son - Jesus Christ
Ephesians 2.18.
In the Holy Spirit
Ephesians 6.18.

LEARNING FROM THE MODEL PRAYER
Matthew 6.9 - 15.

Jesus taught the principles of prayer in His model prayer

WHEN YOU PRAY

Be Reverent verse 9.
‘Our Father... hallowed be thy name

Be Conscious of God’s Interest
verses 9 - 10.
Thy Kingdom
Thy Will be done.

Pray for Spiritual Blessings
verses 12 - 13.
Forgive us
Lead us not into temptation
Deliver us from evil.

Pray for Daily Needs
verse 11.

The Condition Of God’s Guidance.

1. You must have a Humble Mind.

‘The meek will He teach His way’
Psalm 25.9.
To ask for guidance is to confess you do not know the way

2. You must have an Obedient Heart

God guides you through the clear statements in the Bible.

He will guide you about marriage
2 Corinthians 6.14

He will guide you about questionable things
Romans 14.1 - 17

He will guide you about going to Church
Hebrews 10.25.

He will guide you by His Holy Spirit about Christian service.
Acts 16.6, 7.

3. You must have a Surrendered Will


To realise God’s guidance involves being -
Ready to do that which He wants.

Praying is the vital link with God in heaven

Waiting upon God is not Time Wasted but Time Invested.

Prayer is best undertaken in privacy where there can be no intrusion and no interruption.
6  When and How Should I Pray?

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**CONDITIONS FOR PRAYER**

**Pray Expectantly**
Luke 11. 9 - 10

**Believe God Will Answer**
Mark 11. 23 - 24.

**Have a Forgiving Spirit**

**Ask According to God’s Will**
1 John 5. 14 - 15.

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**Hindrances to Prayer**

**Unconfessed Sin**
Psalm 66. 18

**Wrong Motives**
James 4. 3.

**Lack of Faith**
James 1. 6, 7

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**13. How Can I Know God’s Guidance?**

**The Promise of God’s Guidance.**

‘I will guide you with my eye’
Psalm 32. 8

God is able to guide you
Psalm 73. 24.

God is willing to guide you
Proverbs 3. 6.

God doesn’t want you to make mistakes. Pray, ‘Lord what will You have me to do’ Acts 9. 6.

**The Nature of God’s Guidance**

(a) It is Divine guidance
‘I’ will guide

God is infallible, His ways perfect
He never makes an error of judgement

(b) It is Individual guidance
‘I’ will guide ‘you’

(c) It is Practical guidance
God will guide you in every phase of your life - for example:
In your career, friendships, marriage, where you might live, which Church fellowship you should join.

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A life without Prayer is like a house without a roof - Open to all the elements

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27. How Can I Know God’s Guidance?
**Both Parts Together**

**NOTES**

1. **By Prayer**
   
   ‘Lord what will You have me to do’? Acts 9. 6.

2. **By Personal Desire**
   
   ‘Follow after love and desire spiritual gifts’
   1 Corinthians 14. 1.

3. **By Exercise**
   
   ‘Neglect not the gift that is in you’
   1 Timothy 4. 14.

   ‘Stir up the gift of God which is in you’
   2 Timothy 1. 6.

4. **By the Recognition of Others**
   
   ‘Let the prophets speak two or three and let the other judge’
   1 Corinthians 14. 29.

**What benefit do you see in a consistent prayer life?**

**Notes**

- Gifts are given by the Spirit to be used in His power. The development of gift is under the individual's control.

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**When Should I Pray?**

**Pray at all times**

1 Thessalonians 5. 17

The Lord Jesus prayed early in the morning and at evening
Mark 1. 35; 6. 46, 47

Daniel prayed three times daily
Daniel 6. 10.

Paul and Silas prayed at midnight
Acts 16. 25.

**What shall I pray?**

Prayer will Include:

- Adoration.
- Confession.
- Petition.
- Supplication.
- Thanksgiving.

**For whom shall I pray?**

- For all men.
- For kings.
- For all who are in authority
  1 Timothy 2. 1 - 4.
9. How Can I Resist Temptation

INTRODUCTION

1. BELIEVE IN THE DEVIL

THE DEVIL IS A REAL PERSONALITY

He is a Fallen angel

He is a Murderer  John 8. 44.

He has many Wiles
Ephesians 6. 11.

He is Powerful -
but can be resisted
1 Peter 5. 9

He is Cunning
He deceived Eve in Eden
Genesis 3. 1 Timothy 2. 14.

He is Evil
He destroyed Job’s business, family and health. Job 1 and 2.

He constantly blinds the thoughts of men 2 Corinthians 4. 4.

The Christian’s Defence against the devil and his wiles -
PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD
Ephesians 6. 11 - 18.

What About Healing Today?

DOES GOD EVER HEAL HIS PEOPLE?

The answer is - Yes.

‘Epaphroditus was so ill he was ‘near to death’, but God had mercy on him. This means that God raised him up, doubtless in answer to Paul’s prayers.
Philippians 2. 25 - 30.

All through the history of the Church there have been similar instances of God putting forth His power in healing.

DOES GOD ALWAYS HEAL HIS PEOPLE?

The answer is - No

Even though much prayer is offered the sickness remains, it persists - ‘Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick’ 2 Timothy 4. 20.

He was a Christian, he served God in the gospel with Paul, but Trophimus was not healed.
God simply does not heal every Christian who falls sick.
**Are Miraculous Gifts for Today?**

**The New Testament Period**

There were offices extraordinary: (apostles and prophets). So there were gifts extraordinary.

1. The gospel message was new.
2. It was evidenced by signs and wonders and acts of power.
3. The miraculous display of divine power accompanied the preaching of the apostles.

The gifts were part of the credentials of the Apostles as the authoritative agents of God in founding the Church. Hebrews 2. 4.

**The Church Period Today**

*It is reasonable to expect that the continuous manifestation of similar signs would cease when -*

1. The Apostles and prophets are absent.
2. There is no new message to confirm.
3. The canon of scripture is now complete.

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**2. Believe All Wrong Doing Is - Sin**

Don’t excite sin.
Don’t excuse sin.
Don’t expect to sin.

**What If I Fall Into Sin?**

Confess the sin immediately.

The blood of Jesus Christ ... cleanses from all sin. 1 John 1. 7.

If we confess our sins God is faithful and just to forgive us our sin. 1 John 1. 9.

We have an Advocate - Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 2. 1 - 2.

**How Can I Overcome Lust?**

‘Every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed. When lust conceives it brings forth sin’ James 1. 14, 15.

Don’t encourage corrupt fantasies.

Don’t conjure up pleasurable experiences.

The mind is the fountain from which actions flow.
3. **Avoid Sinful Thoughts.**

Don’t fill your mind with what is impure it result’s in lust - burning, passionate, overpowering lust.

The media encourages lustful thoughts

Immoral thoughts are Sin
Matthew 5. 28.

A lot of modern Television is filth control it vigorously -
*Switch it off.*

Some Books, Magazines and Newspapers will promote lust -
*Don’t read them.*

INSTEAD -
Read and Obey the Bible
Psalm 119. 9,11

Yield your members to God
Romans 6. 16.

Pray for help
Hebrews 4. 16

Confess and forsake known sin
1 John 1. 9.

**NOTES**

3. **VOID INFUL THOUGHTS.**

SIN in prospect appears beautiful, in retrospect its hideous.

**IN CONTRAST**

**GIFTS**
1. Connected with Christian Service
2. Variety (gifts are in the plural)
3. Limited (not all the gifts for all Christians)
4. Not linked with spirituality
5. Gifts are given

**FRUIT**
1. Connected with Christian character
2. Unity (fruit is in the singular)
3. Unlimited (All the fruit for All Christians)
4. Connected with spirituality
5. Fruit grows

**HOLY BIBLE**

10 How Can I Resist Temptation.

23 What Are Spiritual Gifts?
10. Who Is The Holy Spirit?

INTRODUCTION

THE HOLY SPIRIT

IS NOT AN INFLUENCE

Yet He does influence Christians

IS NOT AN EXERTION OF A DIVINE ENERGY

Yet His energy is evidenced in the Miracles of Jesus, the Preaching of the Apostles and the growth of Churches in the New Testament.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON

Jesus warning the scribes said blasphemy against the Holy Spirit was an ‘unforgivable sin’

Mark 3. 29.

Jesus promised His disciples in the upper room that when the Holy Spirit came He would -

Teach you all things.
Testify of Me.
Convict the world.
Guide you into all truth.


DIFFERENCES BETWEEN

BAPTISM
AND
FILLING
OF THE SPIRIT

Baptism of the Spirit
1 Corinthians 12. 13.
Past Event
A Fact
Once Only
For Salvation
True of all Christians
Position - Into the One Body

Filling of the Spirit
Ephesians 5. 18.
Present Event (s)
A Command
Repeated
For Spirituality
Should be true of all Christians
Power - with the Spirit

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22 What Are Spiritual Gifts?
11. What Does The Holy Spirit Do?

**His Work In Creation.**

The Spirit brought the cosmos out of chaos by His brooding and force Genesis 1. 2.

**His Work In Regeneration.**

The work of regeneration, or the new birth, is attributed to the activity of the Spirit

John 3. 5; Titus 3. 4, 5

**His Work In Resurrection.**

God will quicken our mortal bodies through the Spirit Romans 8. 11.

To Summarise

The Holy Spirit’s Work in:

- Creation.
- Regeneration.
- Resurrection.

Demands a Divine Person with Infinite Power

‘He’ not ‘It’.

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21 What Are Spiritual Gifts?

**What About The Gift Of Tongues?**

1. The Nature Of Tongues

Tongues Were Real Languages

At Pentecost Acts 2. 6; 8. 11.

The Jews recognise the apostles were telling the mighty works of God.

In Cornelious house Acts 10. 15 - 17.

Peter and the Jews with him knew Cornelious was extolling God.

2. The Purpose Of Tongues

At Corinth - tongues (the same word as in Acts 2) were a sign to Jews 1 Corinthians 14. 21,22

At Pentecost - tongues were a sign to unbelieving Jews Acts 2. 4-12.

In Cornelious House - tongues were a sign to saved Jews who questioned Gentiles being saved Acts 10. 45 - 46

At Ephesus - tongues were a sign to the local Jewish community Acts 19. 8 - 9.
Why are Spiritual Gifts Given?

1. FOR HEALTHY GROWTH IN THE BODY-THE CHURCH
   Ephesians 4. 12 - 17

2. FOR ACTIVE SERVICE IN THE LOCAL CHURCH
   1 Corinthians 12. 7; 14. 3 - 4.

   THE PARABLE OF THE POUNDS.

   Christians have a common Responsibility Luke 19. 12 - 26

   THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS.

   Christians have differing Capacities Matthew 25. 14 - 30

   THE PARABLE OF THE VINEYARD.

   Christians do not have equal opportunities Matthew 20. 1 - 16

   In these Parables of Jesus the use of the gifts resulted in more gifts, more blessings.

   THE LORD JESUS EXPECTS YOU TO USE YOUR GIFT

   How important do you consider the gifts of the Spirit are for active Christian service?

20 What Are Spiritual Gifts?.

1. BROUGHT ORDER OUT OF CHAOS Genesis 1. 2.

2. ENDUED MEN WITH SKILL
   Bezaleel: Exodus 31. 2

3. EMPOWERED MEN FOR:
   Leadership - Gideon Judges 6. 34.
   Kingship - David 1 Samuel 16. 13
   Prophetic Office - Ezekiel Ezekiel 2. 2; 11. 5.

   THE LORD JESUS EXPECTS YOU TO USE YOUR GIFT

   The holy humanity of Jesus Christ was conceived by the Spirit Luke 1. 35.
   The Spirit Convicts the world John 16. 8 - 11
   The Spirit Renews the Christian Titus 3. 5.
   The Spirit Sanctifies the Christian 2 Thessalonians 2. 13.
   The Spirit Fills the Christian Ephesians 5. 18

13 What Does The Holy Spirit Do?
The baptism of (in) the Spirit incorporated many members into the Body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12. 12 -13.

Jew and Gentile believers shared the same access to the Father. Ephesians 2. 18.

Local Churches are temples of God by the indwelling Spirit. 1 Corinthians 3. 16,17.

Overseers in the local Church are made by the Spirit. Acts 20. 28.

Gifts were given by the Spirit to Christians in the local Church. 1 Corinthians 12. 4, 7, 11.

Policy of the Church was directed by the Spirit. Acts 13. 1 - 4.


2. The Gifts are special abilities and responsibilities given to Christians by the Holy Spirit.

What are Spiritual Gifts?

Spiritual Gifts are not natural talents. 1 Corinthians 12. 1

Spiritual gifts are:

1. Grace Gifts ('charisma') 1 Corinthians 12. 4. Undeserved gifts Distributed by the Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12. 11

2. Diverse Gifts 1 Corinthians 12. 4 -10 Romans 12. 6 - 8. Ephesians 4. 7 - 11
15. What Does The Holy Spirit Do?

Because every Christian has received the gift of the Holy Spirit, it does not follow that every Christian possesses all the spiritual gifts.


The Gift of the Holy Spirit is universal to every Christian.
Romans 8:9

The Holy Spirit is the power for living and witnessing for Christ.
Galatians 5:16 Acts 1:8

SPIRITUAL GIFTS:

Imparted by God
Romans 12:4.

Bestowed by Christ
Ephesians 4:7.

Distributed by the Spirit
1 Corinthians 12:4

A VARIETY OF GIFTS WERE GIVEN TO THE EARLY CHURCHES

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT ARE:
Free Gifts
For Each One
For the Profit of All.
**What Does The Holy Spirit Do?**

**Ephesians 5. 18.**

**THE COMMAND**

Be filled with the Spirit

**THE CONTINUANCE**

Keep on being filled.

**THE CONTRAST**

*Be not drunk with wine*

**THE DRUNKARD:**

Has lost control of himself.

His speech is crude.

His songs are bawdy.

*Be filled with the Spirit*

**THE CHRISTIAN:**

Controls himself

2 Timothy 1. 7.

His speech is gracious

Colossians 4. 6.

His songs are spiritual -

Ephesians 5. 19.

‘Singing and making melody in your heart’

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**BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT FOR**

**Boldness** Acts 4. 13.

**Generosity** Acts 4. 36, 37

**Christlikeness** Acts 7. 60.

**Inward Joy** Ephesians 5. 19.

**Upward Thanksgiving** 5. 20.

**Outward Submission** 5. 21.

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**HOW CAN I BE FILLED?**

**Be Surrendered**

‘Present your bodies’

Romans 12. 1.

**Be Separated**

‘Be not conformed to this world’

Romans 12. 2.

**Be Spiritually-minded**

‘Be ye transformed’.

Romans 12. 2.