

Truth: A 10 Step Guide for New Believers

If you've picked up this book as a new believer, desiring to know your next step in this new covenant with Jesus Christ, I want to congratulate you; you've made the only decision (in this life) that will result in continuous dividends of blessing and joy, not only for the remainder of this life, but in eternity to come. The Bible, in Romans 4:7-8 says, *'What happy fulfillment is ahead for those whose rebellion has been forgiven, and whose sins are remitted by blood. What happy progress comes to them when they hear the Lord say to them, "I will never hold your sins against you!"'*

God has placed every person on this earth for a specific purpose. A purpose designed to utilize the gifts and talents that each of us possesses, for His glory. Let me tell you what it looks like when God is glorified: The Bible says that we are to *'loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and break every yoke. To divide your bread with the hungry, and bring the poor who are outcasts into your house. When you see the naked, to cover him, and not hide yourself from your own people.'* (Isaiah 58:6-7) .

This means, now that God has saved us, there's a mission to accomplish. Everything God has planned for you to do in life will further, in one way or another, those things detailed in the scripture you've just read.

As unique as God's plan is, and as specific as it is for each person, there are General Foundations that, if laid properly can give every Christian a firm beginning in their faith.

This 10 step guide is designed to lay that foundation; touching on the most important facets of Christianity that you need to be successful.

Get ready, your life is never going to be the same again!

- Pastor Michael Webber
Truth & Triumph Christian Assembly

Step 1: Bible Reading

The first few days of this devotion will focus on simple practices that should be adopted by every Christian for continual growth. You can compare these practices to the soil, water, and sunlight needed for a newly planted seed to flourish and grow.

The first basic practice we are going to focus on is daily Bible reading. There is an inescapable truth, that, the more it is embraced, the greater evidence of God's abiding presence we will see and experience in this life. That truth is this: Gods' Word (The Bible) is God speaking to you, personally, in truths that have stood the test of time. These truths are inexhaustible. The more they are explored, the more we come to understand, and the greater their influence will be in us, and through us. In fact, The Bible says of Itself, *'All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for teaching, for adjustment, for correction, and for instruction in what is right. So that those who belong to God can become perfected by them. And equipped for every good work.'* (2 Timothy 3:16-17) This is the precise reason why there are men and women who've read the whole Bible through, time and again, and yet are still hungry to study it, search it, and mine its truths. No other book in human history can claim to be this precious. And within its pages are contained strategies for how to put this very Word to work in your life.

In the book of Joshua 1:8, God says to Joshua, *"This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth, but shall meditate in it day AND night, so that you are careful to do according to all that is written in it. When you do this, you will make your way prosperous, and you will have good success."* This verse tells us

that contained within the pages of the Bible are practical truths that, when followed, will cause you to be successful and prosperous. I would venture to say that this is drastically different from what you have heard for most of your life. You've likely heard that life is unpredictable, random, unfair, and merciless. But the Bible actually teaches cause and effect. It boils down to this: If you do what God says, you'll have what God promised.

So, why does God tell Joshua to spend time in His Word day AND night? The next statement in the verse answers that question: *“So that you are careful to do all that is written in it...”*

Better than an instruction manual, the Bible has no useless parts (no left over nuts or bolts). Because it is inexhaustible, we are to spend time carefully making sure we are following God's decrees. The bible tells us His instruction is for our profit (Hebrews 12:9-10). So God lays out for us — in his instructions to Joshua — a great strategy for making sure we hear and understand what He asks of us. And that strategy is spending time in His Word day AND night.

Tips for Successful Bible Reading:

1. Start in the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). They are four different perspectives on the life of Jesus.
2. Don't bite off more than you can chew. Take it slow. The Bible is not like most books. The point is not to get to the end by starting at the beginning, but to come to a full understanding of all the truth in the scripture.
3. If you come across a passage hard to understand, don't get frustrated or discouraged. You have The Holy Spirit — who

inspired every word in the Bible — living in you. He is your helper. He will guide you into understanding, either by using other scriptures to paint a clearer picture of the misunderstood passage, or by bringing teaching and preaching on that passage or subject that will give you clarity.

4. The Bible is offensive to anyone not trained by its truth. But if you approach the Word with a humble heart (realizing that all of Gods' Word will benefit you if you Agree and Obey it) you will be blessed! Make the decision in your heart, “When I read the Word, I am not going to presume that my ways and ideas are higher than His.” When you do this, the Bible says, *‘The entrance of His Word gives light. It gives understanding to the simple.’* Psalm 138:2
5. Make time for the Bible. Schedule it into your day if needed. Be consistent with your Bible time. Discipline yourself. Whatever you do consistently will determine your life's course.

Step 2: Daily Prayer

Prayer is one of the most misunderstood subjects in the Bible. Ironically, it is also one of the most discussed subjects. But there are 3 basic things you need to understand about prayer.

Number 1: Paul said, *'I will pray...'* (1 Corinthians 14:15) Prayer is an act of your will. You can pray whenever you'd like. There is no special garb or apparel you have to put on beforehand. There is no need for ceremonial candles, or incense. Prayer is a decision to commune with the God of your salvation.

Number 2: Jesus said, *'when you pray...'* (Matthew 6:5) He did not say, *'if you pray...'* Prayer should be a certainty in the life of a Christian. Psalm 119:165 says, *'Seven times a day do I praise You.'* There is no limit to how long or how often you can approach God in prayer. But it should be a lifestyle. A first resort.

Number 3: Jesus said, *'Do not pray in vain repetition, like the heathen do.'* (Matthew 6:7) One of the common practices of those who do not understand God is a style of prayer that repeats over and over again a phrase, or recital. Prayer at its simplest form is a conversation with the Almighty God. You do not have to speak Elizabethan English. You don't need to know Latin, or Greek. You just need to know what Jesus did on the cross, and because of that, the way has been made for us to come to our Heavenly Father in prayer, honestly pouring our heart out to Him.

Some people believe that God views prayer as a bother, in some way. But the Bible teaches that, *'we have not because we ask not.'* (James 4:2) Think of it this way: God is all-powerful, and therefore, He is a master at multi-tasking. He is able to hear, comprehend, respond, and move on the behalf of anyone, and

everyone who call out to Him at any moment. And He's able to do it all at once. The Bible sums up the life of King Uzziah by saying, *'As long as he sought The Lord, the Lord prospered him.'* It does not bother God when we pray to Him. In fact, it is the opposite. It bothers Him when we don't pray.

But there is a secret to answered prayer. If we were honest with ourselves, we all know someone who prayed before, and did not receive what they asked for. That might even be the case with you. However, there is good news! You don't have to live in the place of unanswered prayer! James 1:6-7 says, *'Let him ask in FAITH, nothing wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. That kind of person won't receive ANYTHING from God.'* So faith is what is required to live in the place of answered prayer. How do we get faith? Romans 10:17 says, *'Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.'* You cannot have faith for something that God's Word does not support or promise you. Like food turns into energy in the body, the Word turns into faith in the heart of a Christian; No Food, No Energy. Likewise, if you haven't received what the Word of God has to say on a subject, you can't have faith to see your situation changed. But because the Word is available to you, you can receive its truth in whatever area of life that you need God's help in; and you can become confident that because God's Word is His will, when you ask according to His Word, you'll get what you asked for. The Apostle John put it this way: *'This is the confidence we have in Him: if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we asked of Him.'* (1 John 5:14-15)

Tips for a Successful Prayer Life:

1. Find examples of how people prayed in the Bible, especially in the New testament. Follow their example. The Bible says to, *'Imitate those who, through faith, and patience, inherited the promises.'* Hebrews 6:12
2. Like Bible reading, make prayer a daily discipline. Whatever you're consistent in, you will become proficient in.
3. Make praise and thanksgiving to The Lord a regular part of your prayer life. Prayer is not just meant to be asking God for things, but, like a relationship with someone you love, part of prayer is for spending time with God. It's in that time with Him where He strengthens, encourages, and guides you.

Step 3: Living Sin Free

The Bible says God is not the author of confusion, but of peace. (1 Corinthians 14:33) When Jesus defeated sin on the cross, He also provided a way for you to live free from sin completely. How confusing would it be for the Bible to say, *'sin has no dominion over you...'* (Romans 6:14) and yet it be impossible for you to not sin? Titus 2:14 says that Jesus *'gave Himself for us, in order to redeem us from ALL iniquity.'* If it were impossible to live sin free, then Jesus' sacrifice was a failure, because that would mean that there is certain sin that remained unaffected by His work on the cross. Thank God that is not the case! Don't misunderstand. If you do sin after you've accepted Jesus as your savior, that does not mean you've lost His love or salvation. 1 John 1:9 says, *'If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'* However, sin does not have to be inevitable in your life. Just two chapters later in 1 John 2:1, the Bible says, *'My little children, I write these things unto you so that you do NOT sin.'* Imagine that!

There is a power inherent in the words of the Bible that can cause you to be completely victorious over sin. Psalm 119:11 says, *'Your Word have I hid in my heart so that I do not sin against You.'* 1 Peter 4:1 says, *'Forasmuch as Christ has suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves with this same mind also. For he who has suffered in the flesh has CEASED from sin.'* Over and over again, you'll find that the Word of God encourages us to live free from sin completely. Over the course of your Christian walk, you are going to hear people suggest that sin is inevitable. That it is an unavoidable part of life. The

people who tell you this may be God fearing, Jesus loving, church going people. But bless their hearts, they're wrong.

Jesus conquered sin for us, and now you and I live in the benefits of His victory. Think of it this way: you may not have fought in World War II, or The Revolutionary War, but because those soldiers won the victory for you, you live in the benefits of that victory. Jesus won the war over sin. The Bible says, *'For this reason, the Son of God was manifested, so that He might destroy the works of the Devil.'* (1 John 3:8) And because Jesus did His job, and did it well, the Devil has no work that can overpower the victorious blood of Jesus.

Tips for Living Sin Free:

1. An old preacher, Leonard Ravenhill said, "A sinning man stops praying. But a praying man stops sinning." It's not possible to live a life of sin and prayerfulness. Time spent in the presence of God in prayer results in an awareness of His power to resist and overcome the temptation to sin. In fact, even Jesus went to the heavenly Father in prayer when He was tempted to disobey His calling in the garden of Gethsemane. *'Pray so that you do not enter into temptation.'* Luke 21:39-46
2. Psalm 119:11, *'Your Word have I hid in my heart, so that I do not sin against You.'* The Word of God is a weapon useful in the battle of temptation. The more skilful you are with the Word, the more prepared you will be to defeat the devil's attempts to tempt you into sinning. Stay diligent in your reading of the Word.
3. *'A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself. But a foolish man passes on and is destroyed.'* (Proverbs 22:3) Be honest with yourself, what are the areas where you've been weak,

and give in easily to sinful desires? Avoid people and places that encourage those things! Only a fool would continually return to a place or continue a relationship with a person that drags them into sin. But you aren't a fool! God, by His Spirit, is going to give you the strength to make the changes in your life to avoid the pitfalls of sin. In Jesus Name!

Step 4: God's Call for You

Did you know that God has a specific call for your life? In Jeremiah 29:11 God said, *'I know the plans I have for you. Plans to prosper you, and not to harm you. Plans to give you a hope, and a future.'* God has a specific purpose for your life. He has designed you with specific and personal gifts that are meant to make an impact in your generation. What God has called you to do is unique to you. It may fall under a well-understood category, like business, or ministry, or education, or the political realm. But His call for you is about more than a title. God may have called you to Pastor a church, but that doesn't mean your ministry will be like that of every other Pastor. He may have called you to be a teacher at a local school, but your role in that school, and the impact God intends for you to make will be unique to who He has made you to be.

The Lord said to Jeremiah, when he was a young man, *'Before I formed you in your mother's womb, I knew you...'* (Jeremiah 1:5) Paul said that God had *'separated him from his mother's womb.'* (Galatians 1:15) Know this: whether you were planned by your parents, or not; whether you were expected, or a surprise, God already knew you. And He deliberately and delicately formed you. He designed you with specific talents that are meant to facilitate what His purpose is for you on this earth. Right at this moment, you may not know what that purpose is. But I have good news, God does! And He is eager to share that purpose with you! 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 says, *'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no heart fully knows what God has planned for those who love Him...BUT God has revealed those things to us BY HIS SPIRIT!'* Imagine that!

There is such a dynamic call for your life, that it's never been seen, or ever fully articulated, and no heart has ever fully grasped all that He has. God has not called you to live in mediocrity. Or to follow in the footsteps of brokenness that your family who've gone before you have set. His desire is that your life would amount to more than a dash mark set between a birth date, and a death date on your tombstone. He has called you to make a difference. But as God is revealing the details of your personal and specific purpose, every Christian has practical commandments in the Bible that The Lord wants all of His people to follow, regardless of who they are and what they're meant to do. Several of those commandments are going to be discussed in this guide book; but in order to know what God requires of His people, in detail, make sure you are spending time with God, in His Word, and in prayer everyday.

Tips for Fulfilling God's Call for You:

1. James 1:22 tells us to not merely listen to, and read God's Word, but also do what it says. One who listens only, may agree with the Bible, but if they aren't obeying it they are deceiving themselves. But the person who listens and obeys it will be blessed! Pay close attention to what you're reading in the Bible. When you see a commandment in it, examine yourself. Are you obeying that command from the heart? Or do you need to make a change? Make the changes needed, and see the blessing promised! When you show yourself to be consistent and faithful with what the Bible plainly commands, you'll find that God will quickly begin to reveal your personal call. Everything in the Kingdom of God works progressively. *'Faithful with little, ruler over much.'* (Luke 19:11-27)

2. Prayer is essential to the fulfillment of God's call for you. Not only to find out what that call is, but also HOW to carry it out. In close study of the scripture, you'll find that those who were most successful in what God called them to do were the ones who sought God for even the small details of their life. Prayer is not only fellowship with God, and an opportunity to receive from God what you need, but time spent in prayer demonstrates to The Lord that you're ready to be trusted with the next step He has for you. Because if you're seeking Him before the step, He knows you'll seek Him after.

Step 5: Consistent Church Attendance

There is a major misunderstanding of church these days. People seem to be confused about its purpose, and the good that it serves in the life of a Christian. Is church expendable? Is it necessary to be a fruitful Christian? Despite the confusion surrounding the subject, the bible is very clear about the importance of church and its intended function in a Christians life. 1 Corinthians 12:13 says, *'For by One Spirit are we all baptized (submerged) into one body...'* When you made Jesus your savior, when you were born again, in that very moment the Holy Spirit, Who is God Himself, submerged you into the church.

The church is not a building. It is the collection of believers. Christians who gather with the unified purpose of worshipping the Almighty God, receiving from His glorious Presence, and being trained up in His infallible Word. But remember this: the church is the COLLECTION of believers. It is no singular man or woman. When the Holy Spirit submerged you into the body of Christ (the church), you were grafted into the body as a member. *'For as the body is one, but has many members (parts), and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ (and His church).'*' (1 Corinthians 12:12) So when the church gathers, it is the members of Christ's body coming together in their function. You are a member, or a part of the body. And like the various parts of the human body, you have a role to play within the body. The knee has a similar function to the elbow, but its purposes are different. You might think you have nothing special to offer the church, that you are replaceable, or that you are not needed. On the contrary! You

have a God given ability to function in a way that is needed for the church!

The Bible instructs the church to *'keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace...'* (Ephesians 4:3) When you became a Christian, you received a supply of the Spirit of God. And when the church comes together, we each bring our supply of the Spirit which results in the whole body being built up and strengthened! Think about that phrase "Unity of the Spirit." To instruct that we should keep the unity of the Spirit, means that it is possible that there be a separation or division of the Spirit. When people willingly separate themselves from the church body, the body is deprived of what the supply that the missing person has; and the missing person is deprived of ALL the supply that the rest of the church has. Picture it this way: If a part of your body were amputated, it is likely that the rest of your body will continue on living. But it won't function as it should. A person with one leg will struggle more than someone who has both their legs. But the greatest harm comes to the part of your body that was actually removed. An amputated body part grows cold, stiff, lifeless, and useless. So it is with the church. When someone decides to split off from the church, the church is injured by it. But the greatest harm comes to the person who cut themselves off from the body. They are missing out on the life giving supply that the rest of the body gives.

Every opportunity you have to take YOUR supply of the Spirit, and gather with the rest of the body: make the decision that that is of the highest importance to you! *'For his "body" has been formed in his image and is closely joined together and constantly connected as one. And every member has been given (a supply) divine gifts to contribute to the growth of all; and as*

these gifts operate effectively throughout the whole body, we are built up and made perfect in love. 'Ephesians 4:16 (TPT)

Tips for Staying Passionate About Church:

1. The most practical way to stay excited about church, and your spiritual growth in the church, is to make a quality decision that, no matter how you feel, or what else is going on, you are going to be in the House of God. Say this to yourself: "I am a full time Christian, and a part time everything else." The more you commit to making church a part of your life, the more it will become a joy, and a comfort for you. God intended it that way!
2. The most practical way to remind yourself of how important you are to the church is to immediately find a place to help. Whether it be children's ministry, ushering, housekeeping, or greeting; wherever you can be most helpful, find where you can get involved!

Step 6: Spiritual Authority

There's an old saying: "Anything with two heads is a monster. Anything with no head is a freak." But many people seem to fall into an ideal of leadership that lies within either the "monster" or the "freak" category. God has set up a system of authority in His church. Jesus had twelve men that followed Him, and served Him in the ministry. They are known as the "twelve disciples". The word "disciple" means "a disciplined one." These twelve men disciplined themselves to heed and put into practice Jesus' teaching and righteous example of living. In fact, there was an occasion in scripture where seventy other disciples (besides the twelve) of Jesus' were offended at one of His teachings. And in John 6, the Bible tells us that they left Jesus and followed Him no more. As the seventy made their exit, Jesus looked at the twelve and said, "*Are you leaving, also?*" Peter spoke up and said, "*Lord, You alone have the Words of eternal life. Where have we to go, but after You?*" These twelve men, by their endurance in discipline, following Jesus, became so impactful that the Bible tells us they '*turned the World upside down.*' (Acts 17:6) But the seventy who left Him, are never heard of again. There is a secret to becoming great in the Kingdom of God. It can be summed up in one word: submission.

It's a word that is so opposite to the culture of the day, it's almost taboo to speak of it from a positive perspective. But look what Jesus said about it: '*If you continue in My Word, you will be My disciples. Then you will know the truth. And the truth will make you free.*' (John 8:31-32) '*Whoever will exalt himself, they will be brought low. But whoever humbles himself, they will be exalted.*' (Matthew 23:12) '*Whoever wishes to be the greatest among you, must become the servant of all.*' (Mark 10:44)

Obedience, diligence, and humility are the master keys to promotion and peace in the Kingdom of God. In His Kingdom, He is the promotor, and the supervisor. Too often we are prone to finding fault in people. And we are convinced that whatever fault we've found has disqualified them for their position. But God is looking for qualifications, not disqualifications. And the key qualifications are obedience, diligence, and humility. Because an obedient person, though they may have something that needs to be fixed, will work to fix it when they sense God's correction. A diligent person, though they may be less talented or skilled, will be faithful to move forward in what God has called them to do. They won't quit. A humble person, though they may have made a mistake, will be willing to see, reconcile, and later, avoid that same mistake. Notice what these three qualities have in common: They are all qualities expressed in subordination. To be obedient means to recognize there is someone with an authority over you, and comply with their request. To be diligent means that someone over you gave a task, and you employ patience and endurance to accomplish it.

To be humble means to be aware that the role you are being asked to play is not that of chief, but of servant. In the Kingdom of God, God has set Pastors over the local church body, and Pastors choose leaders to serve under them. There are no outside hires in the Kingdom of God. Promotion comes from within. When an individual is obedient to what is asked, diligent to work at and accomplish a task to promote the church vision, and humble enough to correct a mistake, it is those people who will find themselves thrust into the higher realms of His Kingdom!

Tips for Submission to Authority:

1. Paul said, *'Whatever you do, do it with all your heart, as unto the Lord, and not unto man.'* (Colossians 3:23) When it comes to participating in a place of servanthood in the Kingdom of God, you'll find that, although you may have a person that is leading you, submission to that leadership will be rewarded by God. But the intention of your heart must be to remember that you're fulfilling what God asks of His people. Take the perspective that when someone who is a leader over you is asking something of you, that it is as if Jesus Himself is making that request; then fulfill it with the same passion you would have if the directive came straight from the mouth of your Savior!
2. *'Obey your spiritual leaders and recognize their authority, for they keep watch over your soul without resting since they will have to give an account to God for their work. So it will benefit you when you make their work a pleasure and not a heavy burden.'* (Hebrews 13:17) As we said, promotion in the Kingdom comes from within. There are no outside hires. God desires to promote you within His Kingdom to a place of influence. Just remember that leadership is a place of accountability. God will hold leaders responsible for the people they lead. Keep that in mind as you serve under your leaders now, and as God promotes you to leadership over time.

Step 7: Baptism in The Holy Spirit

Normally when people hear the word *baptism*, they think of baptism in water. But there is another type of baptism that the Bible expressly teaches is necessary for the Christian. It is called the baptism in The Holy Spirit. Jesus said in Acts 1:5, '*John baptized in water, but you will be baptized in The Holy Spirit in just a few days.*' He tells us what kind of baptism this is, and what its for just a few verses later, '*You shall receive power after the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will become witnesses of Mine in Jerusalem (where the Christian church began), Judea, Samaria, and unto the farthest reaches of the earth.*' The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a baptism of power. And it is for proving that Jesus is alive. The power that comes on you when you are baptized in the Holy Spirit is tangible. You can feel it. It is a measure of the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. Philippians 3:10 calls it 'the power of His resurrection.' In fact, you've experienced this power before. You became a Christian because someone preached the Gospel to you. And it was the power that was resident on the person that preached to you that drew you to Jesus. They were a witness. When you receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, you become a vessel for that power, so that God can use you to change the lives of others the same way your life has been changed: with the Gospel.

But there's more! Not only is the baptism in The Holy Ghost meant to make you a witness, it opens up a unique way to pray and to worship Him. It is called *speaking with other tongues*. As we said, in Acts 1:5 Jesus told His disciples, '*you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit in just a few days.*' When that day came, it was called the Day of Pentecost. Acts 2 says, '*When the*

day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like a mighty rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. There appeared to them tongues as of fire, being distributed and resting on each of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to speak. 'When the Holy Spirit arrived, the power that He filled the disciples with was like fire. Then they began to immediately speak in languages that they had never learned. It was supernatural! What were they saying? Acts 2:11 says men were present in Jerusalem at that time that came from various countries around the world, and it says those men declared, "we hear them speaking in our own languages the mighty works of God." Speaking in other tongues is a supernatural form of worship. And it opens up for you a place of restoration and refreshing for you.

'With stammering lips, and an unknown tongue, I will speak to this people. This is the rest that I will give to the weary. This is the refreshing.' (Isaiah 28:11-12) There is a rest that comes to you from the presence of God when spend time praying in other tongues. 1 Corinthians 14:4 says, *'Anyone who speaks in an unknown tongue edifies (Builds up, strengthens) himself.'* It is a special availability that God has granted to His people. God doesn't just want you to obey and serve Him. He wants to minister His strength, peace, joy, and comfort to you. In fact, He wants to be the ultimate source of comfort, peace, and joy in your life. And when you experience His comfort, peace, and joy, everything else on offer falls short. There is no one like Him. He cares for you, and desires to empower you to take you straight to the top and live in victory.

Tips on the Baptism in The Holy Ghost:

1. Here is how to receive the baptism in The Holy Ghost. The Bible says, *'When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.'* (Acts 19:6) When you have an opportunity, ask your Pastor, or someone in the church who has the baptism in The Holy Spirit to pray with you to receive it and for them to lay their hands on you. When they do, the power of God will come over you, and The Spirit of God is going to begin to give you the utterances to speak. They will essentially seem just like sounds to you, just like any other language you don't understand. But open your mouth and speak what you have. As you do, more will come. Cooperate with The Holy Spirit. He won't force Himself on you. But if you cooperate with Him, His power and presence will come stronger and stronger!
2. One you've received the baptism in The Holy Spirit, the prayer language or tongue you receive is yours. It's a gift. And just like how you have the ability to pray in a language you understand whenever you want, you can pray in tongues at will also. Paul said, *'I WILL pray with the Spirit, and I WILL pray with the understanding.'* (1 Corinthians 14:15) I encourage you to take time every day to pray with the Spirit. It will help you learn His voice and stay strong and at peace in your Christian walk.

Step 8: Winning Souls

Proverbs 11:30 says, *'He who wins souls is wise.'* An unusual phrase, no doubt. But to win souls simply means to preach the gospel and bring people to salvation through Jesus Christ. This job does not solely belong to the Pastor or preacher. It is a responsibility of every believer. And once you've become a believer, you'll find that it becomes a desire of yours. The Bible describes the plight of the lost in this way, *'Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision. For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.'* (Joel 3:14) Those who've yet to come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, His love, mercy, and grace, are in a valley called Decision. But we, as the people of God, are meant to declare to them the way of salvation.

The word "gospel" means good news. And to one lost in a valley, trying to decide how to get out of it, it's good news when someone proclaims that there is a way of blessing and hope. It takes great boldness to share your faith. And that boldness only comes by an overflow of the power of God in your life. Acts 4:31 says, *'When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled was shaken, and they were all FILLED with The Holy Ghost and began to preach the Word of God with boldness.'* Effectiveness and passion in preaching the gospel, and winning the lost stems from your relationship with the Holy Ghost. When you spend time in His presence, you become inescapably aware of an urgency to win people to Jesus.

His coming is imminent, and the time is short. But God has reserved you for this hour, because He knows the abilities that He's put on the inside of you. Abilities meant to bring increase to His Kingdom. Remember this: God's number one desire is to

see the prize of His creation — humanity — come to salvation and be restored into the fellowship of His glory. God has played no role whatsoever in the separation between Himself and mankind. The Bible tells us who is responsible for that. 2 Corinthians 4:4 says, *'The god of this world (Satan) has blinded the minds of those who do not believe, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.'* But the bible says that God is *'not willing that anyone perish, but that all come to repentance.'* (2 Peter 3:9) This is why, when a child of God makes a determined decision to be a soul winner, and to preach the gospel, they become a literal answer to a prayer that Jesus Himself prayed: *'But when He (Jesus) saw the crowds, He was moved with compassion for them, because they fainted and were scattered, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest, that He will send out laborers into His harvest."'* (Matthew 9:36-38) There are great rewards that come from the hand of God when someone has committed themselves to seeing The Lord's desire to be reconciled with His people flourish. *'He that reaps receives GOOD wages.'* (John 4:36)

Tips to be an Effective Soul Winner:

1. Remember that you are not alone when you go to preach the Gospel. The Bible says, *'They went everywhere preaching. The Lord worked WITH them, confirming The Word preached with signs following.'* (Mark 16:20) The pressure is not on you to see people come to Jesus. The pressure is on the Word. Preach it with boldness and simplicity, and watch God confirm it with power!
2. Like most practices, you'll become more proficient in soul winning the more you do it. I can almost guarantee that

when you first start, you won't feel like telling people about Jesus. But keep your mind on eternity. Remember that your obedience to preach to the lost — either one on one, or to groups, crowds, or multitudes — will affect them for the rest of this life AND all of eternity! When you stay heavenly minded, you become mighty on the earth.

Step 9: Giving

You've probably realized by now that God's way of doing things is different from the way this world does things. In many cases, it is directly opposite. Did you know that God has a unique way of providing for you financially? The world would tell you that wealth is accumulated by hoarding everything you have. His method of wealth is a principle called "Seed time and Harvest." God compares generosity to a seed that is planted. Seeds, though small, always produce a harvest that is much larger than what was sown. It is a system of increase that God has created to bless the generous. This principle is one that people who aren't even Christian can participate in, and watch it work for them. The Bible encourages in many places to sow seeds of financial generosity to see the blessing of God. There are whole chapters of the Bible that talk about giving. Among them are 1 Corinthians 9, 2 Corinthians 8, and 9, and Philippians 4. As well as large portions of scripture in other places.

But there is another principle of giving that ONLY a Christian can participate in. It is called the tithe. The word "tithe" means 10 percent. The Bible says that any ability and avenue you have for finances was a result of God's Hand in the first place (Deuteronomy 8:18). God then mandates that of all He allowed you to produce, 10 percent be returned to Him to honor Him for His blessing. But obedience to the mandate of the tithe is not without a blessing! *'Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this, says the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing, that there will not be room enough to receive it.'* (Malachi 3:10) Think of it: God asks you to honor Him with what He's brought into your hands already,

BUT, when you do, He in turn, honors you by guaranteeing blessing that is so abundant you will not have enough room to store it all! The God of the Bible is unlike any other God! We don't serve Him to avoid His wrath, as other religions do with their gods. We serve Him, and He promises to flood you with overflowing blessing!

Here is why God established the tithe as a percentage: If God had mandated that everyone give \$10,000, there would be people who're unable to obey. Because not everyone has \$10,000. But God set it, instead, as 10 percent, so that way there would be no one who is unable to participate, and no one who is left out of the blessing. 10 percent is just enough, that it takes faith to obey. If God had said 5 percent, it likely wouldn't be a problem for many people. They would just need to slightly adjust their budget, and they could get by without issue. But He said 10 percent, knowing that those who have determined to obey Him in giving would have to do so by setting aside the fear and concern of not having enough, and believe that God is Who He said He is, and that He will cause you to abound more after the sacrifice of the tithe, than you ever could by avoiding the sacrifice of faith, and holding on to everything you have. Isaiah 1:9 says, *'The willing, and the obedient WILL eat the good of the land.'* Obey the mandate for giving and watch your life excel beyond your wildest dreams!

Tips for Giving:

1. Remember that the tithe, and sowing financial seed are two different things. The tithe is instructed to go to the House of The Lord, your church (Malachi 3:10, 'Bring all the tithes into the storehouse.')
- There are 3 aspects to the tithe that must be honored to see its full blessing. The first is that the

tithe is not just any 10 percent. It is the first 10 percent. It is intended to show God that He is first in every area of your life, including finances. When increase comes, make sure you set apart the first ten percent to be able to give to the House of The Lord. You can write a check and post date it. You can separate the tithe into another account. Many churches have online giving now, so you can give your tithe right away. The second aspect is that you cannot expect God's blessing in your life in any area if you are actively participating in sin. Remember that you CAN and should live sin free, BUT IF you sin, you can repent and ask God for His forgiveness. When you do, sin's hinderance to God's blessing in your life is destroyed! The third aspect is that you must not split your tithe. Malachi 3:10 says, '*Bring ALL the tithes into the storehouse.*' Your tithe is not a tithe unless it is the full 10 percent. Don't misunderstand. If you are desiring to bless other people, that is a good thing! But that is not the tithe. The tithe is uniquely designed to go to the House of God. And after you've brought your tithe, you can be a blessing to those around you as God leads!

2. You'll find that, as a Christian, God has put a desire in you to be a blessing to as many people as you can. He's placed a compassion inside of you to give to those in need, and to show the love of God to people by giving of your resources. And the Bible says God loves a cheerful giver! The Bible also teaches that when we give, we can expect a return of increase to be given to us, and that God will '*cause men to give into our bosom.*' (Luke 6:38) But when you give, don't give with strings attached. The person or place you give to may not be the ones to give the increased harvest back to you. But God will command the harvest from another place.

Give with the intention of being a blessing and watch God work miracles of provision from unexpected places!

Step 10: Thankfulness

This is perhaps the most important of the subjects in this guidebook. Keeping ourselves grateful to The Lord for all He has done and is continuing to do in our lives is vital to staying in joy and continually growing in the things of God. In fact, the book of Philippians is known as the book of rejoicing! 1 Thessalonians 4:18 says, *'In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.'* Many people say they are thankful for one thing or another, but they never specify who they are thankful to. But we know *'every good and perfect gift comes down from The Father...'* (James 1:17) So we know Who to be thankful to. It is God Who has protected us. God Who has provided for us. God Who has saved us. God Who has blessed us. And God Who calls us into His glorious purpose. Thanksgiving and praise unlock a power that pushes us forward into the blessing of God.

In the story of the Exodus, we find that the generation of Israelites that are forbidden from entering God's promised land are those who continually complained about where God had them. Let's put that into perspective: These were the people that God had delivered out of slavery in Egypt by destroying the nation who had killed the new born children of Israel in droves. And the more Moses asked that Pharaoh set them free, the harder the labor he would force on them; until finally, God displayed such mighty power that Pharaoh had no choice. When Israel was finally free, they had an eleven day journey from Egypt to the land God had promised them. But because of the complaining and disobedience, an eleven day journey turned into 40 YEARS! God miraculously brought water out of a rock to hydrate them. He rained manna and quail from heaven to feed

them. He gave them a cloud over head to cool them from the heat in the desert. And a pillar of fire surrounded them to protect them at night. But they still kept complaining. When they finally came to the promised land, they sent 12 spies into the land to see if it was really as lush and fruitful and flourishing as God had said. The 12 spies returned and said, *'We came to the land where you sent us, and surely it flows with milk and honey, and this is the fruit of it. However, the people are strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are fortified and very great, and also we saw the children of Anak (giants) there.'* (Numbers 13:27-28)

Because of fear, they refused to go into the land God had provided for them. Think of it...the land was exactly what God said it was, but they missed out on the promise through fear, complaining, and doubt. But two of the twelve men, Joshua, and Caleb, said, *'We are able to take the land.'* They had seen God's mighty power in Egypt, and His protection in the desert. And of an entire generation of Israelites, only the two men (and their families) who trusted God and remained grateful, were permitted to enter the land of promise. And they received everything God said they would. You may be surrounded by ungrateful, fearful, or complaining people. But make the decision that you will praise God and thank Him that He is a God of His Word!

Tips for Thankfulness:

1. David said, *'I will bless the Lord at all times! His praise will continually be in my mouth.'* (Psalm 34:1) Praise is vocal and continual. God is always with you, so He's always available to listen. Let the majority of what you say to Him be an expression of praise and gratitude! The more you praise, the more you'll have to praise about!

2. *'Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.'* (Psalm 103:2-5) Notice how specific David is with his praise. Tell the Lord what you're thankful for. You'll find your heart will jump in on the action, and you'll have more things to be thankful for than you have time to tell it all!

“Without faith, it is impossible to please God. For those who come to Him must first believe that He is, and that He is a Rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”(Hebrews 11:6).

Diligence, and persistence in these 10 simple steps will only produce one result in your life: Absolute and complete victory in every area. This is just the beginning. Watch as God takes you from one place of peace and blessing to the next. “From glory, unto glory...”(2 Corinthians 3:18).

My prayer for you is that you experience nothing less than God's perfect goodness in your life. He has paved the way, through Christ Jesus, to unending glory. That glory is your portion, in Jesus Name!

- Pastor Michael Webber
Truth & Triumph Christian Assembly

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