

PART ONE

THE BASICS

If you decide to complete the steps in this program set a goal of finishing Steps 1 through 5 in 40 days. The other steps will take years to finish. Stay with them until you are called home to be with the Lord. No Christian retires from spiritual warfare. We are all in the fight until we are called home or the Lord returns to take us all home (1 Thessalonians 4.16-18).

STEP ONE

THE TOOLS

Buy a Bible, a pocket New Testament, a Strong's Concordance and a New Testament Interlinear Bible. You can purchase them at most religious bookstores. If you have trouble finding them ask your pastor for help. If you have the money you may want to buy – a Bible handbook (Unger's, Haley's), a topical Bible and a Bible dictionary (Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words). These tools are invaluable in your study of the Bible.

Buy a good study Bible. The following study Bibles are recommended:

Thompson Chain
Open Bible
Dickson New Analytical Bible
Companion Bible

Decide what translation you want to use and stick with it. The King James, the New King James and the New American Standard Bible (NASB) are the most accurate. The New International Version is not as accurate as the first three. It is a thought-for-thought translation instead of a word-for-word translation as the first three are. Do not use a paraphrase.

STEP TWO

THE GOSPEL

For those who want to spend eternity with Jesus Christ instead of the Lake of Fire there is Hope! Everyone is a sinner in need of salvation:

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3.23)

Those who die in their sins will be judged and suffer punishment in the Lake of Fire for all eternity:

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment. (Hebrews 9.27)

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. (Matthew 25.46)

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. (John 3.36)

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20.15)

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Mark 8.36-37)

Yet even though all have sinned, one can escape eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire, and have eternal life through Jesus Christ:

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6.23)

Salvation is available to all:

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5.8)

Belief in Jesus Christ is the only way to be saved:

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14.6)

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (Acts 4.12)

Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone:

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2.8-9)

What must one do to be saved?

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:9-10)

If you believe God the Father raised Jesus from the dead, call upon Jesus Christ to save you right now:

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10.13)

Today is your day of salvation:

Behold now is the day of salvation! (2 Corinthians 6.2b)

Receive Jesus today for you do not know what tomorrow may bring:

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. (John 1.12)

Exercise 1

Memorize Matthew 25.46; Mark 8.36-37; John 1.12; 3.16, 36; 14.6; Acts 4.12; Romans 3.23; 5.8; 6.23; 9.9-10; 10.13; 2 Cor. 6.2b; Hebrews 9.27; Revelation 20.15, and learn how to present the Gospel. You should print out this presentation of the Gospel, and keep it with you until you are proficient in sharing the Gospel. There will be times when you forget to take your spiritual sword (Bible) or dagger (New Testament) with you. If you have the key salvation passages memorized you can quote them. (To print out the Gospel presentation go the book's website – www.makedisciplesofallthenations.com.)

You can give it to those you witness to. You should put your name at the bottom and the phone number of the church you attend. Try to get their number if possible. Refrain from witnessing to a person of the opposite sex. If the Holy Spirit compels you do **not** ask for their number, and do **not** give them yours. Give them the church number.

Short Gospel presentation

Memorizing all 17 verses of the Gospel may be too hard to begin with. If so memorize the 6 verses below and become proficient in the short Gospel presentation. Once you master it memorize the rest.

Everyone is a sinner in need of salvation:

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. (Romans 3.23)

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And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment. (Hebrews 9.27)

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STEP THREE

GOSPEL PASSAGES TO STUDY

The following passages dealing with the Gospel should be studied carefully so you have a full understanding of the Gospel.

John	1.12-13 3.1-18, 36 4.10-14 5.24, 38-39 6.29, 35-40, 44-58, 63-71 7.5, 38-39 8.24 10.27-30 17.3 20.31
Acts	2.37-38 15.9-11
Romans	3.19-31 4.1-11 5.6-11, 15-21 9.30-10.4 10.9-13, 17
1 Corinthians	15.1-4
Galatians	2.16 3.1-14, 23-29
Ephesians	2.8-10
Titus	3.5-6
Hebrews	9.11-15, 22 10.10
1 Peter	1.18, 23
1 John	5.10-13

STEP FOUR

FAITH CHECK

Are you being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ?

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:29)

Are you being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ? Has there been a noticeable change in your likes and dislikes since you trusted Jesus to save you?

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (Romans 12:1-2)

Everyone who is truly born from above will change. You will stop doing certain things and start doing things you did not do previously. Your thought life will also change.

To determine whether something is good (honoring to God) pray, read the Bible and ask yourself if Jesus would join you.

There are a few things we know are not of God, and must be avoided at all costs – illegal drugs and getting drunk.

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5.18)

The next time you listen to secular music, watch television and movies ask yourself if you think Jesus would enjoy spending the day listening to that music and watching those shows and movies. Not all movies and television shows are bad. Exercise great discernment in watching them. Stick to news and documentaries. The next time you watch a Hollywood production imagine Jesus is sitting next to you. Do you think He would sit through a Hollywood trash movie or television show? By the way, Jesus is with you at all times. Think about it!

The Spiritual Man versus the Natural Man

Take a few minutes out of your busy schedule and examine your daily walk with Jesus.

Spiritual Activity	Average Time Spent Daily
Prayer	_____
Reading and studying the Bible	_____
Memorization & review	_____
Meditation	_____
Devotions with family	_____
Fellowship with believers	_____
Sharing the Gospel	_____
Helping others	_____
Total time serving Jesus	_____

Activities of the Flesh	Average Time Spent Daily
Watching TV & movies	_____
Reading (secular books/magazines)	_____
Hobbies	_____
Recreation	_____
Attending sporting events	_____
Socializing (in person or by phone)	_____
Shopping	_____
Other non-spiritual activities	_____
Total time serving yourself	_____

Sleeping, eating, moderate exercise and working are not on this list because they are pursuits of the flesh that are necessary for survival. It is your free time that you are to examine. All believers should spend more of their free time each day feeding their soul than feeding their flesh. Sadly, few do that. Worse yet, few believers spend more time feeding their souls than they do eating.

If you are not spending more time in spiritual activities (feeding your soul) than you do in eating (feeding your flesh) you are backslidden. Since most people take time to feed their flesh should you take an equal amount of time in feeding your soul?

If you spend more time each day exercising the flesh than you do exercising your soul which is more important to you – your sinful body or your eternal soul?

Exercise

Take this faith check once a month for the first year and then take it every few months or so. This will help you see your progress of maturing in the Lord.

Make several copies for your use and for others. You can go to www.makedisciplesofallthenations.com and print out the “Faith Check.”

Be filled with the Spirit

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5.18)

Christians are not to be intoxicated (drunk) with wine and in like manner to not get “high” with drugs (legal or illegal). Instead we are to “*be filled with the Spirit.*” What does it mean to “*be filled with the Spirit*”? Does it mean we must have a “second blessing” in which the Holy Spirit empowers us to do the work of the Lord?

Scripture does not say that before we can be “*filled*” or empowered with by the Holy Spirit we must have a special “second blessing.” Instead it is a daily activity. It is something we do when we first awake and then throughout the day.

The first thing to do when we wake up is ask the Holy Spirit to fill

us and lead us that day. Prayer at the beginning of a day makes it go by more smoothly. Prayer gets us in the proper attitude so we can let our light shine throughout the entire day. The second thing we can do is spend time in the Word. A quiet time in the Word when we first get up fills us with the Word. Being filled with the Word and the Holy Spirit is the same thing because the words that Jesus spoke are “*spirit*” and “*life*” (John 6.63). Not only are the words that He spoke “*spirit*” and “*life*” but all Scripture:

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2 Timothy 3.16)

We all need to pray throughout the day (1 Thessalonians 5.17). Continual prayer keeps our mind set on the things above and not the things of this sin-filled world (Colossians 3.2). We also need to be filled with the Word several times throughout the day. Taking Bible breaks is vital to be continually “*filled*” with the Holy Spirit. If you can take a Bible or New Testament with you try to read a chapter a few times during the day. If you cannot take a Bible with you to work or when you are out you can meditate on Scripture that you have memorized. When you hide the Word of God in your heart you always have it with you to meditate on.

By praying several times throughout the day and taking Bible breaks one can be continually “*filled*” with the Holy Spirit. The more often we feed on Scripture and pray the more we will grow. Babies would die within a few days if they were not given food. The same is true of newborn believers. If they are not given spiritual food they die spiritually. The more spiritual food they receive the faster and stronger they grow. One or two twenty minute sermons each week may keep a Christian alive spiritually, but that is life-support nourishment. To grow into a strong, mature and vital disciple one must feed on Scripture every day. All Christians need to listen, read, study, memorize and meditate on Scripture daily and wash the Word down with lots of prayer.

If you want to be a disciplined and dedicated disciple of Jesus you must be a spiritual glutton, feeding on the holy Word of God throughout each day and praying always. Instead of being a glutton of physical food, be a glutton of spiritual food.

STEP FIVE

DISCIPLESHIP PARTNER

Find a discipleship partner of the same sex (if single and not engaged) who can hold you accountable and encourage you. You can find one at church, but be careful. If the church you attend does not have a discipleship program give the pastor a copy of this book and encourage him to start one. If he does not start one give careful consideration of finding a church that has one. If you cannot find a church that has a discipleship program look for a home Bible study. If you find one make sure the teacher knows the Bible and can teach.

If you are engaged or married ask your spouse or future spouse to be your discipleship partner. If your spouse is not saved find a spiritual partner of the same sex. If you are engaged to an unsaved person call it off:

*The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; **only in the Lord.** (1 Corinthians 7.39)*

*Be ye **not unequally yoked together with unbelievers:** for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. (2 Corinthians 6.14-16)*