

WHAT IS SOUL WINNING?

Lesson #1

I. A BIBLE WORD

a. Proverbs 11:30; Daniel 12:2-3

Proverbs 11:30 English Standard Version (ESV)

³⁰ The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,
and whoever captures souls is wise.

Daniel 12:2-3 English Standard Version (ESV)

² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above;^[a] and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

b. Psalms 126:5-6

Psalms 126:5-6 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁵ Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!

⁶ He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

c. James 5:20

James 5:20 English Standard Version (ESV)

²⁰ Let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

d. 1 Corinthians 9:9-22

1 Corinthians 9:9-22 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁹ For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰ Does he not certainly speak for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of sharing in the crop. ¹¹ If we have sown spiritual things among you, is it too much if we reap material things from you? ¹² If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we even more?

Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. ¹³ Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? ¹⁴ In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

¹⁵ But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting. ¹⁶ For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not

of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. ¹⁹ For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.

e. Acts 5:42; 8:4,35

Acts 5:42 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

Acts 8:4 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁴ Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

Acts 8:35 English Standard Version (ESV)

³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

II. WHAT IT ISN'T

- a. It is not just witnessing.
- b. It is not just living the Christian life.
- c. It is not just visiting for the church.

III. WHAT IT IS

- a. It is presenting the plan of salvation.
- b. It is seeking to get someone to accept Christ as Saviour immediately.
- c. It is every Christian's job.

Matthew 28:19,20; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15; Psalm 126:5-6

Matthew 28:19 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Matthew 28:20 English Standard Version (ESV)

²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Mark 16:15 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁵ And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

Psalm 126:5-6 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁵ Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!
⁶ He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

- d. It is the greatest work a Christian can do.
- e. Fishing is following Christ.

Matthew 4:19 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

WHY GO SOUL WINNING?

Lesson #2

I. THE COMMAND OF THE SAVIOR

- a. John 15:16; Matthew 28:19,20; Acts 1:8; Ezekiel 33:7,8; Mark 16:15

John 15:16 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

Matthew 28:19-20 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Acts 1:8 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Ezekiel 33:7-8 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁷ "So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.

Mark 16:15 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁵ And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.

- b. "To refuse to witness of a saving gospel to a lost world day by day is nothing short of high

treason, spiritual rebellion, and inexcusable disobedience to God's holy commands." (L.R. Scarborough)

II. THE CONDITION OF THE LOST

- a. Blinded- 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 English Standard Version (ESV)

³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

- b. Spiritually Dead- Ephesians 2:1-2

Ephesians 2:1-2 English Standard Version (ESV)

² And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

- c. Without Understanding- Acts 8:30-31

Acts 8:30-31 English Standard Version (ESV)

³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

- d. On the Way to Hell- John 3:18,36

John 3:18 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

John 3:36 English Standard Version (ESV)

³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

III. THE CONCERN OF THE TRUE CHRISTIAN

- a. Acts 4:20; Romans 1: 14-15; 2 Corinthians 5:11,14

Acts 4:20 English Standard Version (ESV)

²⁰ for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

Romans 1:14-15 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁴ I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians,^[a] both to the wise and to the foolish. ¹⁵ So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

2 Corinthians 5:11 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.

2 Corinthians 5:14 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died;

- b. The true Christian has a four-fold call:
 - i. Call From Within- A saved person has an inward burden to win someone to Christ.
 - ii. Call From Without- The fields are white unto harvest.
 - iii. Call From Above- Heaven's call to go into all the world.
 - iv. Call From Beneath- The cry of anguish from lost souls to go to their brothers (Luke 16: 27-28)

Luke 16:27-28 English Standard Version (ESV)

²⁷ And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— ²⁸ for I have five brothers^[a]—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.'

IV. THE COST OF THE UNTOLD

- a. Their blood on our hands- Ezekiel 3:18

Ezekiel 3:18 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁸ If I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for^[a] his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SOUL WINNING

Lesson # 3

- I. A SOUL WINNER MUST BE SAVED
 - a. Describe the events that led to your receiving Christ as your Saviour.
- II. A SOUL WINNER MUST BE SEPARATED
 - a. Romans 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 6:17; John 2:15

Romans 12:1-2 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹² I appeal to you therefore, brothers,^[a] by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.^[b] ² Do not be conformed to this world,^[c] 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.

2 Corinthians 6:17 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁷ Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,

John 2:15 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁵ And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.

- b. Some sinful habits to avoid- swearing, smoking, immorality, questionable places.
- c. Some good habits to practice- Faithful church Attendance (Hebrews 10:25); Bible reading (2 Timothy 2:15); Daily prayer (Luke 18:1)

Hebrews 10:25 English Standard Version (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.

2 Timothy 2:15 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved,^[a] a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Luke 18:1 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁸ And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

- III. A SOUL WINNER MUST BE STUDIOUS
 - a. Must have a working knowledge of the Bible.
 - i. Romans 3: 10, 23

Romans 3:10 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁰ as it is written:
"None is righteous, no, not one;

Romans 3:23 English Standard Version (ESV)

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

ii. Romans 6:23; Revelation

20: 14-15; 21:8

Romans 6:23 English Standard Version (ESV)

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

Revelation 20:14-15 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:8 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁸ But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

iii. Romans 5:8; John 3:16

Romans 5:8 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3:16 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world,^[a] that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life

iv. Romans 10: 9-13; Ephesians

2: 8-9

Romans 10:9-13 English Standard Version (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. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Ephesians 2:8-9 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

HOW TO PREPARE TO WIN SOULS

Lesson

4

I. HAVE A DEFINITE TIME TO GO.

- a. Soul winning is a spiritual matter and the flesh will fight against it.

- b. Every Christian should have a set time during week where they can go soul winning.

II. BE SOUL CONSCIOUS

- a. What does it mean to be soul conscious?
 - i. Talk to anyone, anytime, anywhere.
 - ii. Realize that everybody has a soul.
 - iii. Make it a habit of asking people wherever you go.

III. BE NEAT AND CLEAN

- a. A person should dress neat. Should dress to go soul winning as you would to church.
 - i. Clothes clean.
 - ii. Well groomed.
 - iii. Watch body odor and breath.
 - iv. Have a pleasant appearance, a pleasant smile.

IV. CARRY TOOLS

- a. At least a New Testament.
- b. At least a tract.
- c. Invite to church.

V. GO TWO BY TWO

- a. Going two by two is scriptural and it helps encourage the other.
- b. The one does the witnessing while the partner keeps the road clear of interference.
- c. The one should keep quiet until the other one finished talking.

VI. GO WITH DIFFERENT PEOPLE

- a. This helps keep us on the right track. It also helps teach others who don't know how.

VII. GO WITH HOLY SPIRIT'S FULLNESS

- a. Claim the Spirit's power and fullness for witnessing.

VIII. GO BELIEVING

- a. Go believing that God is going to save somebody. Expect to win them (Psalm 126: 5-6)

Psalm 126:5-6 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁵Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!
⁶He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

IX. BE NICE

- a. Be nice, courteous, kind, and gentle.
 - i. God did not send us out to rebuke their bad habits.
 - ii. We are witnesses, not prosecuting attorneys.

X. BE CAREFUL ABOUT GOING IN

- a. Do not try to go in unless they are unsaved.
- b. Men should not go in if there is a young lady present.
- c. Get the name of that person.
 - i. Look at their eyes.
 - ii. Shake their hands.
 - iii. Look for something that they have that you can brag on.

HOW TO WIN SOULS

Lesson # 5

I. INTRODUCTIONS AT THE DOOR

- a. Tell them **WHO** you are, and **WHAT** church you are from.
- b. Ask them if you may come in and visit with them.

II. BEGIN WITH SMALL TALK

- a. Once in the home, use F.I.R.E.
 - i. F- Family
 - ii. I- Interest – self or occupation
 - iii. R- Religion-spiritual things and upbringing
 - iv. E- Exploratory- Ask them 2 questions:

1. “If you should die right now, do you know for sure you would go to heaven, or do you doubt it?”
2. “Could I take a moment to show you how you can know for sure?”
3. Do you ever think about spiritual things?
4. When you attend, where do you go to church?
5. Who is Jesus?

III. GET INTO THE BIBLE QUICKLY

- a. Teach him that he’s a sinner. (Romans 3:10,23)

Romans 3:10 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁰as it is written:

“None is righteous, no, not one;

Romans 3:23 English Standard Version (ESV)

²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- b. Teach him that he’s going to hell because of his sin. (Romans 6:23; Revelation 20: 11-15)

Romans 6:23 English Standard Version (ESV)

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

Revelation 20:11-15 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹¹Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. ¹³And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

- c. Teach him that Jesus paid the penalty for his sin on the cross. (Romans 5:8)

Romans 5:8 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- d. Teach him that if he will believe that and receive Christ, God will save him. (Romans 10:13; Ephesians 2: 8-9)

Romans 10:13 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- e. Teach him that repentance is critical.

Luke 9:23-26 English Standard Version (ESV)

²³ And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. ²⁵ For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? ²⁶ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

IV. STAY ON THE SUBJECT

- a. This is where most soul winners are ruined.
 - i. Suppose the question came up, “Where did Cain get his wife?”
 - ii. The proper response is, “That’s a good question and I tell you what we will do. After we’re finished here we will discuss that question.”
 - iii. The chances are they’ve forgotten what the question was – this is Satan’s tactic of getting you off the subject.

V. DRAW THE NET RIGHT

- a. Ask them two questions:
 - i. “Do you know of anything that would keep you from trusting Christ?”
 - ii. Will you then trust Jesus to take you to heaven when you die?”

- b. Ask them to pray-Bow your heads-You pray.

- i. Ask him to pray-he repeats a phrase prayer after you.
- ii. “Lord Jesus, I know I’m a sinner. I know I deserve to go to hell, but the best way I know how, I do trust you as my Saviour to take me to heaven.”
- iii. Ask him to take your hand if he meant business.
- iv. You pray with thanksgiving, rejoicing, assurance, etc.

VI. LEAD THEM TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN BAPTISM IMMEDIATELY

- a. Ask them if they are ashamed of what happened to them.
 - i. Show them Matthew 10:32-33

Matthew 10:32-33 English Standard Version (ESV)

³² So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

- b. Show them the important of baptism- Acts 2:38

Acts 2:38 English Standard Version (ESV)

³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- i. Ask “When would be the soonest possible time you could be baptized?”
- ii. Then say, “How about this Sunday?” Again assure them of the importance of it.

VII. LEAD THEM TO ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

- a. John 5:24; 10:27-28; 1 John 5:12-13

John 5:24 English Standard Version (ESV)

²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

John 10:27-28 English Standard Version (ESV)

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

1 John 5:12-13 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³ 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.

- b. Do not leave until they know they are saved!

VIII. BRING THEM TO CHURCH-WALK THE AISLE WITH THEM

- a. If it is necessary, go by and pick them up for church.
- b. Sit with your convert during church.
- c. Go down the aisle with them.

IX. REMEMBER FOUR GOLDEN KEYS

- a. Be friendly
- b. Stay on the right track
- c. Never embarrass anyone.
- d. Use it or lose it.

X. IT IS NOT EASY

- a. Satan is against you-but God is for you.
- b. Sometimes it is heart-breaking-but it produces the greatest joy. Psalm 126:5-6

Psalm 126:5-6 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁵ Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!

⁶ He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

- c. Don't ever give up because you haven't won anyone to Christ. Read Galatians 6:9

Galatians 6:9 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

SEVEN LAWS OF SOWING AND REAPING

Lesson #6

Psalm 126:5-6 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁵ Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!

⁶ He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

- I. JESUS IS LORD OF THE HARVEST- Matthew 9:38

Matthew 9:38 English Standard Version (ESV)

³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

- II. EVERY SEED DOES NOT PRODUCE A CHRISTIAN- Luke 8:5

Luke 8:5 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁵ "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it.

- III. THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD- Luke 8:11,18

Luke 8:11 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹¹ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

Luke 8:18 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹⁸ Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away."

- IV. GOD GIVES THE INCREASE- 1 Corinthians 3:6,76

1 Corinthians 3:6 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. ⁷ So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

- V. HE THAT PLANTETH AND WATERETH ARE ONE- 1 Corinthians 3:8

1 Corinthians 3:8 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁸ He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor.

- VI. EVERY MAN SHALL RECEIVE A REWARD- 1 Corinthians 3:8

1 Corinthians 3:8 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁸ He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor.

VII. TODAY IS THE DAY OF THE HARVEST- John 4:35

John 4:35 English Standard Version (ESV)

³⁵ Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.

We were found to find another

We were won to win another

We were told to tell another

We were resued to rescue another

FOR COUNSELOR

REDEDICATION OF LIFE

1. Has God made you realize that you are a sinner?
2. Do you know that you have been saved?
3. How have you come? What do you think God wants you to do?
4. Are you willing to confess to God that you have sinned and turned from sin? (Repentance means to turn)
5. Christ wants first place in your life. Are you ready to turn your life over to Him completely?
6. Let me pray with you and then you pray and ask God to forgive you.
7. Do you believe that it's all settled between you and God?
8. Will take this printed form and fill in the blanks? It will help you understand what it means to rededicate your life.
9. Thank you for letting me share with you in this experience.

FOR COUNSELOR

ACCEPTANCE OF CHRIST AS SAVIOUR

1. Question: Has God made you realize that you are a sinner?
2. Question: Can I read to you from the Bible and pray with you?
3. Read and Explain:

Romans 3:23 SIN

Romans 3:23 English Standard Version (ESV)

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 WAGES & GIFT

Romans 6:23 English Standard Version (ESV)

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

Romans 5:8 LOVE

Romans 5:8 English Standard Version (ESV)

⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:9-10, 13 CONFESSION

Romans 10:9-10 English Standard Version (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. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Romans 10:13 English Standard Version (ESV)

³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

4. According to Revelation 3:20 Jesus is standing outside the door of your heart. Will you ask Him to come in?

Revelation 3:20 English Standard Version (ESV)

²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

5. I want to pray with you, but before we pray, look at this prayer in Luke 18:13. This man prayed this prayer and Jesus saves him. Will you say this prayer from your heart, "God be merciful to me a sinner."

Luke 18:13 English Standard Version (ESV)

¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

6. Prayer of Thanksgiving: Counselor will pray first then the one making the profession of faith.
7. Tell others and come make it public at our church.
8. Give the instruction sheet "Acceptance of Christ"

PERSONAL COMMITMENT GUIDE

1. Salvation

- Have you come to a place in your life that you know for certain you have eternal life and will go to heaven when you die?
- Suppose you were standing before God right now and He asked you, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" What would you say?

God's Purpose

God loves us and has a purpose for our lives. The Bible states it this way:

John 3:16 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that He gave His ^[a]only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

God's purpose is that we have eternal life.

- God gives eternal life as a gift

Romans 6:23 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

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

- We can live a full and meaningful life right now.

John 10:10 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and ^[a]have it abundantly.

- We will spend eternity with Jesus in heaven.

John 14:3 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³ If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

Our Need

As we search for meaning in life, we discover that our sinful nature keeps us from fulfilling God's purpose for our lives.

- We are all sinners by nature and by choice.

Romans 3:23 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²³ for all ^[a]have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- We cannot save ourselves.

Ephesians 2:8-9 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and ^[a]that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- We deserve death and hell.

Romans 6:23 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

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

God's Provision

God is holy and just and must punish sin. Yet He loves us and provides forgiveness for our sin. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6)

- Jesus is God and became a man

John 1:1, 14 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and ^[a]dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of ^[a]the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- Jesus died for us on the cross

John 1:1 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- Jesus was resurrected (arose) from the dead and alive today

Romans 4:25; Romans 6:9-10 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁵ He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.

⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, ^[a]is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.

- God, through His Holy Spirit, calls us to Himself

John 6:44 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴⁴ No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

Our Response

The only way Jesus can affect our lives is for us to receive Him. The Bible says, "But as many as receive Him, to them gave He the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" (John 1:12)

- We must repent of our sin.

Acts 3:19 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁹ Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

- Repentance is not just feeling sorry for our sin

Acts 26:20 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁰ but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

- Repentance is turning away from our sin and turning to God through Jesus.

- We must place our faith in Jesus. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8)

- Faith is not just believing facts about Jesus

James 2:19 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁹ You believe that ^[a]God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

- Faith is trusting in Jesus

- We must surrender to Jesus as Lord. "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 mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:9-10).

- Surrendering to Jesus as Lord is not just saying we give our lives to Jesus

- Surrendering to Jesus as Lord is giving Jesus control of our lives

My Commitment

Giving Jesus control is something each person must do for himself or herself. No one else can make this decision for you. Jesus says, "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20)

- Does what we have been discussing make sense to you?
- Is there any reason you would not be willing to receive God's gift of eternal life?
- Are you willing to turn from your sin, place your faith in Jesus, and give Him control of your life right now?

If you are willing to receive Jesus into your life now, you can invite Him in by prayer. You may use the following prayer or a similar one using your own words:

"Dear Lord Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God and died to forgive me of my sins. I know I have sinned. I ask for you forgive me. I turn from my sins, and I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for saving me. I want to live for You the rest of my life. Amen."

2. Baptism

Have you been baptized by immersion since receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior?

Baptism is a response of obedience to Jesus Christ as Lord (Acts 2:38,41) ³⁸ *Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

⁴¹ *So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand ^[a]souls.* Although baptism does not save, it demonstrates our recognition of the lordship of Jesus over every aspect of our lives. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28: 19-20)

God's Purpose

- We declare our new life in Christ through baptism

saved?" ³¹ They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² And they spoke the word of ^[a]the Lord to him together with all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his *household*. ³⁴ And he brought them into his house and set ^[b]food before them, and rejoiced ^[c]greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.

- The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, as well as our spiritual death, burial, and resurrection, are portrayed in baptism

Romans 6:3-5 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³ Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have become ^[a]united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be ^[b]in the likeness of His resurrection,

Our Need

- We need to confess Jesus publicly through baptism soon after we are saved

Matthew 10:32 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³² "Therefore everyone who ^[a]confesses Me before men, I will also confess ^[b]him before My Father who is in heaven.

- We need to obey Jesus' command

Matthew 28:19 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁹ ^[a]Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

- We need to obey Jesus' example

Matthew 3:13-15 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹³ Then Jesus *arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ But John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he *permitted Him.

- We need to join the fellowship of the church family

Acts 2:41 New American Standard Bible (NASB) ⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand ^[a]souls.

God's Provision

- Jesus began His public ministry with baptism

Mark 1:9-11 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens ^[a]opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; ¹¹ and a voice came out of the heavens: "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

- Jesus demonstrated that immersion in water (being place under water) is the proper way to be baptized

Mark 1:10 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁰ Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens ^[a]opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him;

- Jesus has given authority to His followers to baptize

Matthew 28:19 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁹ ^[a]Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Our Response

- Request a local church to baptize you.
- Be baptized as an expression of obedience to Jesus

Acts 2:41 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand ^[a]souls.

- Influence others through your baptism

Acts 16:31-33 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³¹ They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² And they spoke the word of ^[a]the Lord to him together with all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household.

My Commitment

In summary, the essentials of baptism are:

- Believe in Jesus for salvation.
- Ask a local church for baptism.
- Be immersed in water, showing your identification with Jesus and His church.

If you are willing to take this step of public commitment to Jesus, you can express that willingness through the following or similar prayer:

“Father, I want to obey You and let others know I have a new life in Jesus Christ. Bless me as I follow Jesus in baptism.”

3. Church Membership

Are you an active member of a local church? Where?

Jesus built the church (**Matthew 16:18 (NASB)**)¹⁸ I also say to you that you are ^[a]Peter, and upon this ^[b]rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.) And gave Himself for the benefit of the church (**Ephesians 5:25 (NASB)**)²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,).

The church is made up of God’s people. To love Jesus is to love His church.

God’s Purpose

We can be a part of God’s work through the church. “So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members of another”

(Romans 12:5)

- As a part of the church, we can worship with other Christians

Hebrews 10:25 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁵ *not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*

Ephesians 5:19-20 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁹ *speaking to ^[a]one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;* ²⁰ *always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to ^[b]God, even the Father;*

- As a part of the church, we can evangelize, that is, share our faith.

Acts 1:8 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁸ *but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”*

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁸ *Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,* ¹⁹ *namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and ^[a]He has ^[b]committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

²⁰ *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

- As a part of the church, we grow in discipleship to become the kind of people God wants us to be.

2 Peter 3:18 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁸ *but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

- As a part of the church, we can minister to one another.

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹² *For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.* ¹³ *For ^[a]by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*

¹⁴ *For the body is not one member, but many.* ¹⁵ *If the foot says, “Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason ^[b]any the less a part of the body.* ¹⁶ *And if the ear says, “Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason ^[c]any the less a part of the body.* ¹⁷ *If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?* ¹⁸ *But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.* ¹⁹ *If they were all one member, where would the body be?* ²⁰ *But now there are many members, but one body.* ²¹ *And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; or again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”* ²² *On the contrary, ^[d]it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary;* ²³ *and those members of the body which we ^[e]deem less honorable, ^[f]on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable,* ²⁴ *whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked,* ²⁵ *so that there may be no ^[g]division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.* ²⁶ *And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is ^[h]honored, all the members rejoice with it.*

- As a part of the church, we can fellowship with one another.

Hebrews 10:24-25 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁴ and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Our Need

- We need to identify publicly with the family of God.

Acts 2:41-42 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand^[a] souls. ⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and ^[a]to prayer.

- We need strength for daily living, which comes through fellowship with other Christians.

Hebrews 3:13 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹³ But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

- We need to express our personal talents and spiritual gifts in service through the church.

Romans 12:4-8 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴ For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, ^[a]according to the proportion of his faith; ⁷ if ^[b]service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with ^[c]liberality; he who ^[a]leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

God's Provision

- God established the church as the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:4 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

Colossians 1:18 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁸ He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

- God provides for church membership through the invitation of the local church.

Revelation 22:17 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁷ The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

- God encourages every Christian to participate in church membership.

Hebrews 10:25 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁵ not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

- Jesus set the example for us through His custom of regular synagogue attendance.

Luke 4:16 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁶ And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.

Our Response

- You may become a member of the local church fellowship by professing your faith and by being baptized.

Acts 2:41 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand^[a] souls.

Acts 2:47 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding ^[a]to their number day by day those who were being saved.

- You may share the fellowship of the local church by joining its membership

- You may join a church by a statement that you have been baptized by a local church of like beliefs and practices.

My Commitment

If you are ready to make the commitment to join the fellowship of the local church, you may do so by expressing your intention on the attached commitment card. Seal your commitment in a prayer similar to the following:

“Dear Lord, thank you for the church, and particularly for this local church. Help me to be a faithful church member and support my church family.”

4. Assurance of Salvation

Do you doubt your salvation

God’s Purpose

- God wants us to know we have eternal life. The Bible says, “He that hath the son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things I have written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God” (1 John 5:12-13).

- God wants us to experience the joy of salvation

John 15:10-11 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁰ *If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.* ¹¹ *These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.*

Our Need

Doubts are not uncommon to Christians. Satan want us to doubt and may plant doubts in our minds.

Genesis 3:1 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³ *Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from ^[a]any tree of the garden?’”*

Even the biblical writers experienced doubts and expressed the need for renewal.

Psalms 51:12 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹² *Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
And sustain me with a willing spirit.*

There are five major factors which cause believers to doubt:

- You may not have received adequate explanation when you first believed.
- You may have neglected prayer, Bible study and worship.
- You may have allowed sin, disobedience, or failure to share your faith to cloud your relationship with Jesus.
- You may have inadequate or erroneous understanding about God or about your daily Christian life.
- You may be experiencing physical or emotional difficulties which are causing you to doubt your salvation.

God’s Provision

- God has promised to complete His work of salvation in us.

Philippians 1:6 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁶ *For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*

- Jesus promised assurance of eternal life.

John 5:24 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁴ *“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.*

- Jesus said no one could take the Christian out of His hand.

John 10:28 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

- The Holy Spirit tells us we are the children of God.

Romans 8:16 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

Our Response

We receive God's assurance by faith and express it through obedience.

1 John 1:3-5 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³ what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

Christians are not to trust only their feelings. We walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁷ for we walk by faith, not by ^[a]sight—

Four actions can bring us to assurance:

- Confess all known sin.

1 John 1:9 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- Commit yourself to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:9-10 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁹ ^[a]that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, ^[b]resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, ^[c]resulting in salvation.

- Claim God's promise of salvation by faith. Know. Believe. Entrust.

2 Timothy 1:12 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹² For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him ^[a]until that day.

- Obey God's commands

John 14:21 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²¹ He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

John 15:10 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

My Commitment

Are you ready to take the four faith actions which bring assurance of salvation? If so, you may want to pray the following or similar prayer now:

"Father, I place my complete faith in you; I confess to you any sin (you may want to name known sins): I commit myself to the lordship of Jesus; I claim your promise of assurance of my salvation."

5. Rededication to Grow Toward Spiritual Maturity

God wants you to experience continuing growth in Him, but you may come to a point of recognizing you are not as close to Jesus as you once were, or you may realize you are not continuing to grow toward spiritual maturity.

God's Purpose

- Jesus wants to be Lord of all your life.

Luke 6:46 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴⁶ "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?

- God wants your life to be useful and joyful.

John 15:5-11 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so ^[a]prove to be My disciples. ⁹ Just as the Father has loved Me, I have

also loved you; abide in My love. ¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full.

- God wants you to live in fellowship with Him.

1 John 1:3-7 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

³ what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete. ⁵ This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; ⁷ but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

- God wants to fill you with His Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, ^[a]for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

- God wants to equip you for ministry.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁶ All Scripture is ^[a]inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for ^[b]training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

- When you fail in your walk with Him, God wants to forgive you and restore you to useful life with Him.

1 John 1:9 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Our Need

- Sin May hinder our fellowship with God.

Isaiah 59:2 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

² But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His ^[a]face from you so that He does not hear.

Romans 8:5-8 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁵ For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, ⁷ because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

- We may have allowed conformity to the world to hinder the transformation God wants to produce in us.

Romans 12:1-2 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹² Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, ^[a]acceptable to God, *which is your* ^[b]spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this ^[c]world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may ^[d]prove what the will of God is, that which is good and ^[e]acceptable and perfect.

God's Provision

God offers six major resources for transformation and spiritual growth:

- God uses Scripture to set believers apart and equip them for His purposes.

John 17:17 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁶ All Scripture is ^[a]inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for ^[b]training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

- Spiritual disciplines, such as prayer, Bible study, worship, fasting, witnessing, and serving help us grow.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but *only one* receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then *do it* to receive a perishable wreath, but we are imperishable. ²⁶ Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; ²⁷ but I ^[a]discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

- Family and home influences may encourage us toward spiritual growth.

2 Timothy 1:5 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁵ [a] For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that *it is* in you as well.

- The church, as the body of Christ, encourages all to reach maturity in their faith and knowledge of Jesus.

Ephesians 4:11-15 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹¹ And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,¹² for the equipping of the [a] saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the [b] knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature [c] which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ [a] As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness [a] in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but [f] speaking the truth in love, [a] we are to grow up in all *aspects* into Him who is the head, *even* Christ,

- God works in all circumstances of life to bring us to Christlikeness.

Romans 8:28-29 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁸ And we know that [a] God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

- God disciplines His children to transform us into the likeness of Jesus.

Hebrews 12:10 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He *disciplines us* for *our* good, so that we may share His holiness.

Remember, although God provides these resources for growth, our spiritual growth does not come through our own; it comes by God's grace, through faith, just as salvation does.

Colossians 2:6-7 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁶ Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so [a] walk in Him, ⁷ having been firmly rooted *and now* being built up in Him

and established [b] in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and* overflowing [c] with gratitude.

Our Response

- Confess any known sin.

Proverbs 28:13 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹³ He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes *them* will find compassion.

1 John 1:9 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- Recommit your life to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:58 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not *in* vain in the Lord.

1 Peter 3:15 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁵ but [a] sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a [b] defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and [c] reverence;

- Yield yourself daily to Jesus and experience the fullness of His life in you as you continually grow toward spiritual maturity.

Galatians 2:20 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and [a] the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

My Commitment

As you respond to God's call to growth, you will begin to see the fruit of the Spirit being developed in your life.

Galatians 5:22-23 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Perhaps you can identify one or more aspects of the fruit of the Spirit which is lacking in your life. Are you ready to ask God to work in you to help you grow toward the fullness of His life? If so, you may want to pray the following prayer or a similar one:

“Heavenly Father, I want to be like Jesus. I confess my sins (you may want to name specific sins”; I recommit myself to you as my Lord; and I ask you to work in my life to develop the fruit of the Spirit so I may become continually more mature in my faith.”

6. Commitment to Vocational Christian Ministry

What do you think God wants you to do with your life? God wants you to know His will, and He will enable you to discover it.

Ephesians 5:17 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁷ So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Romans 12:2 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

² And do not be conformed to this ^[a]world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may ^[b]prove what the will of God is, that which is good and ^[c]acceptable and perfect.

God's Purpose

- Every Christian is called to ministry, that is, to Christian service.

Ephesians 4:1 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴ Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹¹ To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will ^[a]count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power, ¹² so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and *the* Lord Jesus Christ.

- God reaches out through His people to the world.

2 Corinthians 5:20 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

- God gives us spiritual gifts to minister to others.

Romans 12:4-8 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴ For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to exercise them accordingly*: if prophecy, ^[a] according to the proportion of his faith; ⁷ if ^[b] service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with ^[c] liberality; he who ^[d] leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Peter 4:10 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁰ As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

- God gives leaders to the church to equip its people for ministry: “And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers,¹² for the equipping of the ^[a]saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;” (Ephesians 4:11-12)

Our Need

- We need to be laborers in the fields that are ready for harvest.

Luke 10:2 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

² And He was saying to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

- We need to sense an urgency of sharing the gospel because so many in the world are lost and headed for eternity in hell.

Matthew 7:13 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.

John 9:4 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴ We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.

- We need to obey the will of God as He reveals it.

Philippians 2:13 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

- We need to equip others for service.

2 Timothy 2:2 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

² The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

God's Provision

- It is God who calls you to Christian service.

1 Samuel 3:8-9 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁸ So the LORD called Samuel again for the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli discerned that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ And Eli said to Samuel, "Go lie down, and it shall be if He calls you, that you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Acts 9:1-20 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁹ Now ^[b]Saul, still breathing ^[b]threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, ² and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; ⁴ and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" ⁵ And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He *said*, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting," ⁶ but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do." ⁷ The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the ^[b]voice but seeing no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he ^[b]could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus. ⁹ And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank. ¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ And the Lord *said* to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying, ¹² and he has seen ^[b]in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your ^[b]saints at Jerusalem; ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen ^[b]instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; ¹⁶ for I will show

him how much he must suffer for My name's sake." ¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized; ¹⁹ and he took food and was strengthened. Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus, ²⁰ and immediately he *began* to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, ^[b]saying, "He is the Son of God."

Acts 13:2-3 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

² While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

- God will equip you for the ministry He gives you.

Philippians 2:13 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

- God promises to be with you and to strengthen you.

Joshua 1:9 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Matthew 28:19-20 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹⁹ ^[b]Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you ^[b]always, even to the end of the age."

- The Holy Spirit will empower you.

Acts 1:8 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

- Anything God leads you to do is possible in His strength.

Philippians 4:13 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

¹³ I can do all things ^[b]through Him who strengthens me.

John 15:5 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Our Response

- Commit yourself to doing what God directs you to do.

Luke 5:5 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁵ Simon answered and said, “Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but ^[a] I will do as You say *and* let down the nets.”

Luke 9:23 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²³ And He was saying to *them* all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

- Discover God’s will for service by complete surrender to Jesus as Lord.

Romans 12:1-2 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

12 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, ^[a] acceptable to God, *which* is your ^[b] spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this ^[c] world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may ^[d] prove what the will of God is, that which is good and ^[e] acceptable and perfect.

- Trust God for guidance.

Proverbs 3:5-6 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart

And do not lean on your own understanding.

⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him,

And He will make your paths straight.

My Commitment

Are you willing to do God’s will? If you are, He will reveal His will to you, a step at a time.

Will you respond to each step as God reveals it and trust Him for the next steps?

Your first step is to serve faithfully where you are.

Matthew 25:21 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your ^[a] master.’

1 Corinthians 4:2 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

² In this case, moreover, it is required ^[a] of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

If you are willing to commit yourself to following God’s will for all of your life, you may want to pray the following or a similar prayer:

“Dear Lord, thank you for providing a perfect plan for my life. I am committed to doing your will as you reveal it to me.