



For New Believers 101 Series by Pastor Neil Broomhead.

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1. 101 A. FOR NEW BELIEVERS

YOUR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

Something wonderful has happened in your life, you have given your heart and life to the Lord Jesus. In this first paper, you will study to gain some clear information from God's Word as to what has taken place in your personal commitment to follow Christ. It would be good after reading each text, that you write the text down in a study exercise book.

1. OUR PAST SPIRITUAL STATE BEFORE COMING TO CHRIST.

A) First, let us look at our spiritual state before Christ came into your hearts. Please read 2 Cor 5 vs14-21.

1. WHAT SIN DID TO MANKIND.

Sin made us fall short of God's standard. Read Rom 3 v23.

None of our "good deeds" could ever match the standards of God's glory. Read Isa 64 v6.

We were born with a fallen human nature. Read Ps 51 v5.

Sin brought death. Read Rom 6 v23.

2. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT OUR OLD LIFE.

We were spiritually dead to God. Read Eph 2 v1.

We were spiritually defiled. Read Titus 1 v15.

We were made slaves by the power of sin. Read John 8 v34

We were spiritually blinded by the power of Satan. Read 2 Cor 4 v4.

We were all under the judgement of God. Read Eph 2 v3b

We were spiritually cut off from God. Read Eph 2 vs 12-13

B) THE LOVE OF GOD TO US.

God in His love and grace saved us. We did not save ourselves by our own will and efforts but by the grace of God, He came into our hearts when we responded to Him. Read Eph 2 vs 8-9.

God's answer to our sin is the Lord Jesus Christ and no other. Jesus alone died to remove sin and give to us the gift of eternal life. Read Rom 5 vs6-9.

God has justified us through the death of our Lord Jesus. Read Rom 4 v25.

C) YOUR DECISION FOR CHRIST.

You were moved in your heart and in your will to respond to the message of God's love for you, as seen in the Lord Jesus Christ. You expressed yourself by:

You believed on the Lord Jesus and accepted Him as your own personal Saviour. Read Acts 20 v21; Eph 2 vs8-9.

You confessed your faith in Christ. Read Rom 12 vs9-10.

You repented of past sin. Read Acts 20

D) A NEW LIFE AND A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST.

2Cor 5 v17

You are a new creation

Your old life has gone.

You have a new life.

Many things have now taken place, since Christ has come into your life:

We have been forgiven of all our sins. Read 1John 1 v9.

We have been Justified (Just-as-if-I'd-never-sinned). Read Rom 3 v24 , 5 v1, 8 v30.

We are cleansed from all sin. Read 1John 1 v7.

We have been reconciled to God. Read Rom 5 v10.

We are now born again. Read John 3 v3.

We are now members of God's family. Read 2Cor 6 v18.

We have the promise of heaven. Read John 14 vs2-

As a believer, you have been given a new identity in Christ. You are a new person in Christ. You are born again by the Spirit of God. Read John 1 vs 13-14.

E) BE ASSURED OF YOUR ETERNAL SALVATION

Because God says so. Read 1John 5 vs11-12 ; John 5 v24.

Because God's Spirit testifies and says so. Read Rom 8 vs16-17

Because you have realised that spiritual changes have taken place in your heart since Jesus came into your life. Read 2Cor 5 v17.

Because Jesus says so. Read John 10 vs27-

I do trust that this first study has been a blessing to you and that you would like to go to the next. Our next study is very important it is all about FAITH. As children of the Lord, we are encouraged not to live by our earthly vision nor by our feelings but by our faith in the Lord Jesus and God's Holy Word. May the Lord continue to encourage your life as you live for Him.

2. 101 B. FAITH

Our second study is about the importance of faith and about living our Christian lives by faith. Understanding Bible faith is the key to living in the promises of God.

PLEASING GOD

We please God by having faith in our hearts and by living by faith in our actions. Please read and write down in your exercise book, Heb 11 v6. You and I are called by God to live by faith and by so doing we will know the power of God working in our lives. The Word of God not only tells us to live by faith but it also tells us how we can grow by faith.

SALVATION.

We were saved by faith in the Lord Jesus. Read Eph 2 v8. God teaches us through His prophet Habakkuk to live by faith. Read Hab 2 v4. We came into God's kingdom by faith in the Lord Jesus and we now continue to live our Christian life by faith. This faith give us a personal relationship with the Lord. It was not religion that saved us, it was a faith in a relationship with the Son of God.

The Meaning of Faith.

The Greek noun word for faith is "pistis" and the book of Hebrews defines faith as, "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb 11 v1). Faith gives to us the substance (assurance, the foundation) to our hopes, and makes us certain of the things that we do not see. Faith is that which reaches beyond the physical and natural and lays holds on the supernatural.

Faith and His Word.

The basis of all true faith rests upon the Word of God, its authority, its truth and its guidance. We believe the Bible to be the infallible Word of God.

If we would align our hearts to the pure Word of God, we would see our faith grow stronger and stronger.

Set yourself a task to read Hebrews chapter eleven again and again until you know its truths in your life.

As you read God's word try to meditate upon its truths. We are not talking about meditation on things which are New Age but rather on the Word of God. By meditation, we take up a word from scripture and we think it through going over and over it. As we do this, we begin to see things in the scripture that speaks to our heart. The language of God's heart is the language of pictures, promptings, visions and dreams. This language is always holy and pure, always edifying. Faith engages the heart of God and sees things from God's view point. The Bible never tells us to just read God's word but rather to meditate upon His word. The word meditate comes from the Hebrew word "Hagah", meaning to mutter. God told Joshua to hagah His word day and night. Read Joshua 1 v8. There is another word for meditation in the Hebrew Bible and that is the word "sichah", meaning to muse, we do this when we contemplate, consider, chew over, reflect, mull over and ponder. We take His word and we go over it in our hearts again and again. Often as we do this we begin to pick up the language of God in our hearts.

There are tens of thousands of promises in the word of God and many of them are offered to us. We are encouraged to take them up and to confess them as a means of exercising our faith. These promises found in God's word can be used in our prayer life to deal with our problems. Faith exercises these promises to create a breakthrough in our personal needs.

Behind the Word of God is God Himself. He is the true God who does not lie, Num 23 v19; who does not change, Mal 3 v6; and who does not fail us, Job 42 v2. Please read these three texts.

Our Faith or His?

Jesus pointed out that we have nothing unless it is given to us from heaven. John 3 v27. Jesus also pointed out that we need the "faith of God" in Mark 11 v22. In our Bibles it reads, "have faith in God", but in the New Testament Greek it reads, "have faith of God". This is the faith that can cast mountains into the sea. Read Mark 10 v27.

Growing Faith in our Hearts.

God wants His faith, His supernatural faith to grow in your heart. Romans 10 v17 teaches us, "... faith comes from hearing... through the Word of Christ." As the Word of God quickens your heart there is a process of growth as noted in Mark, read ch4 v28... In some areas of our lives we can be very strong in faith yet in other areas we can be very weak. Abraham could believe God for great miracles yet when famine came, he left the land of promise and went to another, which was not the will of God for him. The same is true of us, for in some areas, we have a strong growing faith but in others, we find weakness. The truth is, we are all learning to grow strong in every area of our lives in the

face of many of life's difficulties. The best way to increase our faith is through His Word and to keep on exercising it.

Your responsibility is:

Align your heart to God's Word.

Not to neglect meditating on God's word.

Submit to Pastor's and teachers who will help you grow in the Word and in His Faith.

Put your trust in God's Word.

Renew your mind through God's Word. Eph 4 v23.

Live by faith. Hab 2 v4 "The just shall live by faith"

Exercise your faith by confession through your mouth. Nowhere in the Bible do we find that faith is silent in the heart. Read Mk 11 v23; Romans 10 vs9-10 v13.

Fear, doubts and unbelief are killers of having a heart of faith. These are the weapons used by the enemy against us. Deal with such by using the promises of God found in His Word and raise the shield of faith Eph 6 v16.

Don't live in the past, live in the new and believe that God has better things for you. Shout out His victory in the storms of life and put its trumpet to your lips.

Make constant use of the God given faith that is already working in your heart.

The key to the life of the Lord Jesus is found in Acts 2 v25 "I foresaw the Lord always before my face..." Jesus was forever beholding the Father. His words, His power, His ways, His will all came from the Father. As we learn to keep our eyes upon Jesus, faith will grow in our hearts.

Never hide your weaknesses from God. God knows all about you and you cannot tell Him anything that He does not already know. If you do not hand over your weaknesses to God, the devil will have them and use them to defeat you. Keeping your hearts open to God is the good soil that His seeds of faith can enter into.

The word "confession" means to acknowledge, to own and express. It is important to confess your true identity in Christ. The authority that we have in Him must be confessed if faith is to have a strong foundation in your heart and life. Jesus was always confessing who He was and what His identity was. We must follow that example. Jesus said, He was the Son of God, the Son of Man, the Christ and many other positive things about Himself. You are a child of God, you are in Christ and the Holy Spirit dwells in you. Faith confesses who we are. We will return to the subject of our identity in Christ as we go along in our studies.

From this point of time be determined to walk, talk and live by faith in the Lord Jesus. Such a life of faith is pleasing to God.

Suggested book reading on the subject of faith:

Ever Increasing Faith. By Smith Wigglesworth.

New Thresholds of Faith. By Kenneth E Hagin.

The Meaning of Faith. By Dr Charles S Price.

I'm Sold on Being Bold. By Don Gossett.

What You Say Is What You Get! By Don Gossett.

3. 101 C. THE HOLY SPIRIT

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Bible is where we find the answer to this question.

He has intelligence just like any other person. Read 1Cor 2 vs10-11.

He has a mind just like any other person. Read Rom 8 v27.

He can be grieved like any other person. Read Eph 4 v30.

He exercises His will to do things just like any other person. Read 1Cor 12 v11.

He acts like a person in that He prays. Read Rom 8 vs26-27.

He performs miracles. Read Acts 8 v39.

Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit as, "He". Read Jh 16 vs13-14.

As with the Father and The Son, The Spirit also is a person as attested by scriptures. Read Matt 28 v19.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

He is omniscient (knowing everything). Read 1Cor 2 vs11-12.

He is omnipresent (present everywhere). Read Ps 139 v7.

He generates people by His power. Read Jh 3 vs5-6.

He was the power that brought about the miracle of the Virgin Birth of Christ. Read Lk 1 v35.

He took part in the creation of the world. He is omnipotent (having unlimited power). Read Ps 104 v30; Gen 1 v2.

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE WORLD

His work is three fold. Read John 16 v8.

To convict the world of sin.

To convict the world of righteousness.

To convict the world of judgement.

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK IN THE BELIEVER.

To help us. Jh 16 vs5-6.

To guide us.

To teach us.

To bring about the New Birth. Read Jh 1 vs12-13.

JESUS INTRODUCED THE HOLY SPIRIT TO HIS DISCIPLES

Read Jh 14 vs16-17.

He is the other counsellor, one in addition to Jesus.

He is the gift of the Father.

His coming is the result of Christ's intercessions.

He would never leave His people.

He is the Spirit of Truth.

He is not wanted by this world.

He would live in our hearts.

THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD WITNESS TO JESUS

To tell us who Jesus is. Read Jh 1 v1 v14.

To tell us why Jesus came. Read Jh3 v16.

To tell us why Jesus rose from the dead. Read Rom 1 v4; 4 v25.

To tell us where Jesus is now. Read Acts 2 v33.

To tell us why Jesus is there. Read Acts 2 v36; Heb 7 v25.

To tell us about Jesus return. Read 2Tim 4 v1; Heb 9 vs27-28.

THERE ARE THREE EXHORTATIONS ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

Do not resist Him. Read Acts 7 v51.

Do not quench Him. Read 1Thess 5 v20.

Do not grieve Him. Read Eph 4 v30.

THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Gal 5 vs22-23: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faith.

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1Cor 12 vs7-11: The Word of Wisdom, The Word of Knowledge, The Gift of Faith, The Gift of Healings, The Working of Miracles, Prophecy, Discerning of spirits. Tongues, The Interpretation of Tongues, Exhortation.

THE GIFTS OF MINISTRY GIVEN BY THE SPIRIT

Eph 4 v11-13: Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers.

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Is there such a work and doctrine found in the Bible? Yes, there is and there are seven verses to prove it.

The Witness of John the Baptist. Read Matt 3 v11; Lk 3 v16; Mk 1 v8.

The Witness of the Lord Jesus. Read Acts 1 v5.

The Witness of Peter. Read Acts 11 v16.

The Witness of God the Father. Read Jh 1 vs32-33.

All that we truly know about God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit comes by revelation of the Holy Spirit. We owe all spiritual revelations that bless us to the work of the Holy Spirit.

4. 101. D. WATER BAPTISM

As a true disciple of the Lord Jesus, you will want to follow His teachings and His commands. Jesus gave two commands prior to His ascension. The first, was to go and make disciples and the second, was to baptise these disciples in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Read Matt 28 vs18-19.

For all those who truly believe on the Lord Jesus like yourself, the command is to be baptised in water. For those who are baptised religiously all that will happen is, they will get wet. For those like yourself who have a true faith in the Lord Jesus, it will have a far deeper meaning.

Water baptism expresses a spiritual truth we share with Christ in His death and resurrection. The candidate for baptism is not dying for sin as Jesus did, but rather they are making a public demonstration and testimony that they have availed themselves of the work of Christ in His death and resurrection. As Jesus died for our sin and shame, so the candidate now symbolically dies to sin as they go into the water of baptism. As Christ rose from the dead in His resurrection, so the candidate rises out of the water of baptism symbolising the new life in Christ. The old life has gone and the new life has come. The candidate by their free will and desire is following and declaring their new life in the Lord Jesus. Read Gal 2 v20...

Those going through the waters of baptism must do this willingly, gladly and with a heart of faith. This act honours the Lord publically. Many people bring family and friends to come and witness their public baptism. They seek to acknowledge Jesus before men. Read Mat 10 vs32-33.

The act of baptism is one of obedience to their Lord who has commanded His people to become disciples and to be baptised.

Jesus Himself was baptised. Read Matt 3 vs 13-17.

It's a form of circumcision Read Col 2 vs11-12.

It was a great teaching of the early Church. Read Acts 2 v41; 10 vs47-48.

It is symbolic of washing or cleansing. Read Acts 22 v16.

It is also an outward confession of a work within us. Read Rom 6 vs1-11.

Believe on the Lord Jesus and then follows water baptism:

Read Acts 8 v12.

Read Acts 8 v37.

Read Acts 10 vs47-48.

Read Acts 19 vs3-5.

Read Paul's teaching on water baptism in Col 2 and in Romans 6.

No infant baptism.

In all these studies on water baptism you will not come across any teaching on infant baptism.

Infants have not heard the gospel. Read Rom 10 v17.

Infants have not repented of their sin. Read Acts 2 v38.

Infants have no understanding of faith.

Infants were only blessed by Jesus never baptised. Read Mk 10 vs14-16; 1Sam 1 v28.

Why full immersion into water?

Jesus went up OUT of the water. Read Matt 3 v16.

The Ethiopian Eunuch went down INTO and UP OUT of the water. Read Acts 8 vs 36-39.

5. 101. E. BEING A PART OF GOD'S COMMUNITY

Jesus loves the Church, which is all born again believers.

Jesus loves His Bride and gave His life for her.

We need to love what Jesus loves and that means loving His people.

Please read John chapter 17 several times.

When you became born again you were placed into Father God's family. We all cry, "Abba Father".
Read Rom 8 v15; Gal 4 v6.

One of the great problems of modern western society is loneliness. Church life offers great help in this area. People regularly meet together in Church for worship and fellowship not only once a week but also several times a week if wanted. To many, Church becomes their second family where many of their friends meet together. Read Eph 2 vs14-19.

THINGS TO CONSIDER.

Jesus went to the place of worship every Sabbath. Read Lk 4 v16. If we are followers of Jesus, we will also go to God's house.

Jesus has given the church ministries to His people. If we are not in a Christian community, we will have little or no benefit from apostolic ministers.

In the Christian community, we give our offerings and tithes to the Lord's work.

In the community, we also gather to break bread.

In the community, we worship and pray together.

In the community, we find a spiritual family.

