

1 Peter 2:2: "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation..."

Hebrews 5:13-14: "Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. (v.14) But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."

➤ Like a _____, an _____ and a _____.

2 Timothy 2:3-6: "Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. (v.4) No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer. (v.5) Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown unless he competes according to the rules. (v.6) The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops."

Spiritual Growth takes...

STEP #1. Get _____ and let others _____ you are a Christian.

- Getting baptized is part of _____ Jesus (Matthew 28:19-20).
- Getting baptized is something believers should do as soon as _____ (Acts 8:35-38).

STEP #2: Begin a _____ plan & read _____ day.

Psalm 1:1: "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. (v.2) But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. (v.3) He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers."

Joshua 1:8: "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."

Why is a daily reading of the Bible so essential for a successful spiritual journey?

- It will keep you from _____ (Psalm 119:9, 11).
- It will _____ you in living (Psalm 119:24).
- It will _____ you when weary (Psalm 119:28).
- It will _____ you in hard times (Psalm 119:116).

Where in the Bible do I begin?

5 TIPS

1. Start in the New Testament with the Gospel of _____.
2. Begin with _____.
3. Read at least one _____ a day.
4. Read and _____ up your Bible with a _____ or _____.
5. Look for truths to _____.

STEP #3: Begin talking to _____ in _____.

Psalm 5:1-3: "Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my sighing. (v.2) Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray. (v.3) In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation."

The "A.C.T.S" Model for Prayer...

A _____.
C _____.
T _____.
S _____.

HOW TO START TALKING TO GOD

1. Relax - God does not expect you to have _____ in your use of words. Others might be impressed, but God isn't!
2. Remember that prayer is a way for you to develop a _____ with God. He wants to talk.
3. Take time each day to _____ God your troubles, stresses, hurts and pains.
4. Take time to _____ God for all He has done for you.

5. Take time to _____ God for the things in your life that you need.

6. Begin with _____ prayers if you are just starting to talk to God.

7. Create a prayer _____ to help you remember things and keep you on track.

STEP #4: Make _____ a top _____.

Hebrews 10:25: *"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

Romans 12:10: *"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love."*

Galatians 6:2: *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."*

Romans 12:15: *"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."*

1 Corinthians 12:26: *"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."*

HOW TO CONNECT TO THE FAMILY @ SMC

1. If you want to have friends you've got to take the _____ and make _____.

2. Take part in a _____.

3. Participate in the life of the church by being _____ in _____.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The Spiritual race is started by becoming a Christian, but it's an _____ commitment to the _____ of spiritual growth that keeps us in the race until the end!

Today's Message: "So What Now?"

Pastor Cory Anderson / 09.04.11 / SMC

INTRODUCTION:

What do I do now that I am a Christian?

TWO TRUTHS TO UNDERSTAND

1. _____ Jesus Christ as your LORD and SAVIOR is the spiritual _____ point.
2. _____ up spiritually is a _____ part of your _____ to maturity.

THE BIBLE AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

A New Believer in Jesus Christ is...

- In a long distance _____ to the end.

Hebrews 12:1: *... "and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."*

2 Timothy 4:7-8: *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (v.8) Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness..."*

1 Corinthians 9:24-27: *"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. (v.25) Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. (v.26) Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. (v.27) No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."*

- Like a _____ that grows strong.

Colossians 2:6-7: *"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, (v.7) rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."*

- Like a _____ child growing up.