



What New Believers Need to Know

Why do we call this 4-part Bible study series the “Starting Line?”

Hebrews 12:1 - *let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.* (NIV)

1. You have the promise of eternal life

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16 – NIV).

How is a person saved?

2. You are saved by faith

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9 – NIV).

How does a person earn favor with God to be saved?

3. You're not saved by feelings

We live by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7 – NIV)

If a person is saved, shouldn't they feel saved?

4. You may experience doubts

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9 – NIV)

Can a person who doubts their salvation really be saved?

5. You are forgiven of all your sins

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9 – NIV)

How can a person be saved if they still sin?

How can a person be saved if they committed an unforgivable sin?

Matthew 12:31 - every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. (NIV)

6. You're not perfect, just forgiven

there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus... (Romans 8:1 – NIV).

How can God forgive sins that are committed over and over?

Since God forgives Christians their sin, does that mean Christians are free to sin?

7. You are a new creation

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17 – NIV).

What is different about the person that is saved?

8. You must keep living for Christ

²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²²But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—²³if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. (Colossians 1:21-23 – NIV)

Can a person be saved if they stop living the life of a Christian?

Is it possible to fall out of fellowship with Christ and still be saved?

9. You need to go to Church

"We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death." (1 John 3:14 – NIV)

Do Christians really need to go to church if they are saved?

How does it help Christians to go to church?

10. You need to pray regularly

"pray continually" (1 Thessalonians 5:17 – NIV)

How important is prayer in the life of a Christian?

11. You need to study the Bible daily

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. (1 Peter 2:2-3 – NIV)

How important is studying the Bible in the life of a Christian?

12. You need to be baptized in water

"...Repent and be baptized, every one of you..." (Acts 2:38 – NIV)

Is it necessary to be baptized in water to be saved?

What do the following Scripture passages have to say about the meaning of baptism?

*For when you are **baptized**, you were **buried** with Christ, and in baptism you were also **raised** with Christ. (Colossians 2:12 – LB)*

When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. The old life has passed away and a new life has begun! (2 Corinthians 5:17 – LB)

Why should a person be baptized by immersion?

As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. (Matthew 3:16 – LB)

Who should be baptized?

Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized... (Acts 2:41 – LB)

When should a person be baptized?

Those who believed...were baptized...that day! (Acts 2:41 – LB)

13. You need to live a holy life

Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. (2 Corinthians 7:1 – NIV).

Why is it necessary for Christians to purge sin from their lives?

14. You need to be filled with the Holy Spirit

be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18 – NIV)

How may we be filled with the Holy Spirit?

15. You need to tell others about Christ

"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven." (Matthew 10:32-33 – NIV)

Why should Christians tell others about Christ?