

SOME KEYS TO A HAPPY, SUCCESSFUL JOURNEY

1. Do not expect to become a mature Christian overnight. It takes time. Be patient with yourself.
2. If you have a slip or a momentary failure, fix it (ask forgiveness) immediately and continue on the journey. Do not allow it to defeat you permanently.
3. Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. Other people may disappoint you.
4. Be aware of where you are on your Christian journey, and what you need to do to progress to the next stage.
5. Never accept a static status. The Christian life is dynamic; it is always moving ahead. If you allow yourself to stop growing, your spiritual condition will begin to degenerate.
6. Be consistent in your daily devotional life (prayer and Bible reading).
7. Become involved in a good Bible-believing evangelical church and attend worship regularly.
8. Seek to make friends of Christians who will support and encourage you.
9. Read recommended devotional books and magazines that will inspire you.
10. Trust in God to see you through moments of difficulty. We all have them, but God's grace is sufficient.
11. Stay away from places, persons, or situations that subject you to temptation.
12. Never lose the joy of serving Christ.
13. If you suffer or are persecuted for your faith, remember that it will be worth it all when we see Jesus.
14. Always depend on God, never on your own strength.

Lesson Two The Road Ahead

Receiving Christ as your Savior has been an important step. It is the most important decision that you have ever made! However, it must be thought of as the *beginning* of a journey throughout the rest of your life. The purpose of this lesson is to look at the map of the journey and point out some of the important mileposts along the road. All of the themes below will be included in future lessons that have been prepared for you.

Instructions for this Lesson: Carefully read and meditate on each of the steps in the journey, and then write the answers to the questions at the end of the lesson.

Growth: Growth towards Christian maturity will continue throughout your lifetime. As you acquire more knowledge and experience of God and spiritual things, it will be an adventure. Your goal is to become like Christ.

The Use of the Bible: As you learn to use your Bible it will become a never-ending source of blessing, inspiration, strength, and guidance.

Prayer: Learning how to have a conversation with God will open the door to fellowship with him. You will learn to know God, and will enter into a close relationship with Him as you talk to Him and listen to what He reveals to you.

Baptism: You will want to be obedient to the command of Scripture to be baptized. This is an important public testimony to the others of your decision to follow Christ.

Worship: As you learn to worship God in a meaningful way it will become a source of strength and blessing.

The Christian Vocabulary: It will be important for you to learn the meaning of the expressions (words) used in conversation and worship in the Christian church.

Consecration: As you continue to walk with God, your love for Him will increase and you will feel the desire to give more and more of yourself and what you have to Him.

Holiness: When your consecration becomes complete it will allow the Holy Spirit to fill your heart and to minister to you on a deeper level. This is sometimes called the baptism with the Holy Spirit, the fullness of the Spirit, or entire sanctification. It involves cleansing from a sinful nature at the very center of your being, and brings greater spiritual power.

Witnessing: As you enjoy your new relationship with Christ, it is natural that you would want to share your experience with others. Leading others to Christ will become a great joy to you.

Service to God: God has given you gifts (abilities or capacities) that He wants to use for the benefit of His Kingdom. As you discover these gifts and allow Him to use them, you will become a valuable instrument in His hands to help accomplish His purposes. He has a plan for your life and you will find satisfaction as you discover and fulfill it.

Stewardship: God has given us many things including, life, time, talent, money, and even the Gospel itself. Being a good steward means that we recognize that God is the source of these gifts and use them accordingly.

Priorities: Life includes many activities and responsibilities. Some are more important than others. We put different "values" on them. Keeping our priorities in the right order is important.

**IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPHS,
PLEASE WRITE ANSWERS IN YOUR OWN WORDS TO THE
FOLLOWING QUESTIONS**

1. Compare yourself to Christ. In what ways do you need to grow to become more like Him? _____

2. What will you be able to find in the Bible? _____

3. Give your definition of prayer. _____

4. Why is baptism important? _____

5. What are the results of worshipping God? _____

6. Are there any words you have heard Christians use that you do not fully understand? Write them down here so someone can explain them to you. _____

7. In what practical ways can you demonstrate your love for God? ____

8. What happens when we are baptized with the Holy Spirit. _____

9. Can you think of the names of some persons with whom you might be able to share Christ? Write down their names. _____

10. What talents or capacities do you have that God might want to use?

11. What does it mean to be a good steward? _____

12. What do you think should be our highest priority in life? _____

During the coming weeks we will be digging deeper into the areas previewed in this lesson. Today, we celebrate not only the beginning of your new life, but also the wonderful, adventuresome journey that lies ahead.