



## After You've Been Baptized, What's Next?

Baptism is a public symbol of our decision to trust and follow Jesus. In a moment, it showed what Jesus did for us, and now we get to see how that plays out in every part of our lives.

Your number one goal from this point forward is to listen to Jesus and be obedient to the Word of God.

It's a spiritual impossibility to follow Jesus and remain the same. As you listen to Him and do what He says, you will see changes in your life. The changes aren't from your own ideas or strength, but by the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He's the one who gives you the power to love and forgive others, to grow in faith, and to say no to sin and yes to Jesus.

Here are two important ways you can be sure that you continue to grow in your walk with the Lord. These aren't just good ideas. They are both essential to being a Christ-follower:

### 1. Read the Bible regularly. Why?<sup>1</sup>

***It contains God's will for our lives.*** There is no Bible verse that explicitly tells us what profession to pursue, where to live or whom to marry. But it does direct our lives. The Bible's guidelines, commandments and encouragement give us very concrete and reliable insight into God's will for us in every aspect of life. Paul writes that **"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God ..."** 2 Timothy 3:16. In some translations it even says that Scripture is God-breathed.

***It is our nourishment.*** Jesus said, **"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"** Matthew 4:4. He also says, **"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."** John 6:63. If we want to gain life and nourishment for our spirit, it is essential

that we spend time reading the Bible. It is a source of life! It contains the help and wisdom we need for being Christ-followers, and living a life of growth and victory.

***It gives us discernment.*** The author of Hebrews writes, “For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” [Hebrews 4:12](#).

As human beings, it is natural to seek our own selfish ways (Philippians 2:21). Our decisions are often tainted by our own personal opinions, emotions and experiences that go against God’s good and perfect will. God’s Word is powerful to divide between our will and the will of God.

***It instructs us in righteousness.*** “How can a young man cleanse his way?” David asked. “By taking heed according to Your word.” [Psalm 119:9](#).

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#).

The Bible contains all the instruction we need to come to a life of true purity and righteousness. It is full of wisdom, truth, and teaching that not only keeps us from falling into deep and unnecessary troubles, it also equips us for living an abundant, satisfying life – the life God created us to live.

***It contains power to overcome.*** The truth is, every Christian, no matter how mature, will still experience temptation. Satan is a master manipulator, and knows our weaknesses and how to trip us up by our own lusts and desires. ([James 1:14](#)) He tries to get us to disobey God’s will, by offering things that appeal to us naturally: honor, riches or self-satisfaction. He even tempted Jesus, trying to get Him to give into egotism, pride and self-seeking shortcuts.

But, for each temptation Jesus faced, He had a counterattack. And every single counterattack involved God’s Word. “Jesus said to him, ‘It is written again, “You shall not tempt the Lord your God.”’” And further, He says, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.”” [Matthew 4:1-11](#).

As we struggle with temptation, the Bible gives us the ability to stand against it, and contains the power to overcome Satan's lies and tactics.

***It is full of God's promises.*** The Bible is full of extraordinary promises for those who love and follow the Lord. Do you need promises from God regarding faith, wisdom, children, health, favor, redemption, peace, joy, hope, forgiveness, discouragement, relationships, justice, victory, courage, resources and so many, many more aspects of life?

**“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” Revelation 2:7.**

There are an almost infinite number of promises made to those who live according to God's will. Are you interested in these precious promises? Do you want to see what God does, and will do, for those who live according to His will? Then, by all means, pick up your Bible! It will tell you of all the promises that can be yours, both in this life and in eternity, if you do the will of God.

## 2. Get involved in a Bible-believing church. Why?

***To hear the preaching of the Word*** (Hebrews 4:12, 2 Timothy 4:2). Hearing messages filled with sound doctrine penetrates hearts, transforms lives, calls sinners to repentance, encourages the broken, inspires us to love and serve Christ and each other, and lights the path before us.

***To participate in corporate worship*** (John 4:24). Nothing can replace the beauty of coming together corporately to worship God with other believers to honor Jesus and worship God.

***Because iron sharpens iron*** (Proverbs 27:17). Meeting regularly with other believers is a source of encouragement and strength. We have an enemy whose favorite tactic is to divide and conquer. When you aren't surrounding yourself regularly with other believers, you are vulnerable to deceptions and attacks that you would otherwise be shielded from.

***To exercise your spiritual gift.*** (1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12:6, Ephesians 2:10) As a believer in Jesus, God has gifted you. When a church body is healthy, its members realize they are part of the congregation not only to receive, but also to be a blessing.

**To find godly mentors.** (Titus 2) In church you will find many people who have walked the road ahead of you in victory. Their wisdom, insights, and vulnerability to teach you from their mistakes and their testimony is a gift from God!

**To teach your kids to love the church.** If you want to teach your kids to love God, they need to see that you love God. Proverbs 22:6 says, **“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.”** If you teach your kids the value of church and fellowship, they will be much more likely to seek godly help and fellowship when they run into struggles of their own later in life.

**To be a light to your community.** Jesus said the world will know we are His disciples by our love for one another. When you commit to loving God and loving others, the light shining from your Christ-honoring love is what the Spirit can use to draw other to know Jesus.

**To bear each other’s burdens.** (Galatians 6:2) Those who are truly a part of a church family are never alone. They are surrounded by a community who is committed to loving concern, support and prayer.

**Because God says to.** **“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”** (Hebrews 10:25)

This is not an exhaustive list of reasons to be involved in a Bible-believing church community. The bottom line is that God created us as spiritual creatures and as social creatures. We need God. We need each other. Coming into salvation and getting baptized are crucial steps, but it doesn’t end there. We hope this document has helped answer not only questions about baptism, but also about how to live life as a follower of Jesus.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from, Nellie Owens, “6 Unbelievably Good Reasons to Read Your Bible”  
Activechristianity.org.

(For further study, please see “After You’ve Been Baptized, What’s Next?” available upon request or at [www.LakeEffect.church/baptism-what-is-it/](http://www.LakeEffect.church/baptism-what-is-it/) )