

How did the new believers of the early church grow to maturity in Christ? *Acts 2:42* _____

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH OTHERS

From the moment you are born again, it is important that you share your experience with others. God intends to reach other people with the Gospel **THROUGH YOU!**

What did Jesus say to the man, he had just set free from many demons? *Mark 5:19* _____

What does Jesus tell us to do in *Mark 16:15*? _____

Why did Jesus come into this world? *Luke 19:10* _____

Why are we to let our light shine? *Matthew 5:16* _____

We need never be ashamed of the Gospel. Why? *Romans 1:16* _____

We must keep in mind that “witnessing” involves **what we say and how we live**. In order to be convincing, we must be sure that our lives measure up to our message. The walk must match the talk.

Why does Jesus baptise us with the Holy Spirit? *Acts 1:8* _____

No 04

CHRISTIAN LIFE BIBLE COURSE

Study Four: Growing in Christ

As we saw in Study 2, the Bible describes becoming a Christian as “being born again”. This term emphasises the fresh beginning that Jesus can give each person. It also emphasises the need for the new born Christian to develop and grow up to maturity.

This study will examine various aspects of the Christian life, all of which are essential if we are to grow in Christ.

Reading the Bible

Just as a new-born baby requires nourishing food if it is to grow, the new-born Christian must feed upon the Scriptures regularly.

What is the food that God has provided for new believers?

1Peter 2:2 _____

How did Jesus say we are to live? *Mat 4:4* _____

How do we benefit when we feed on God’s Word day by day?

a. *2Timothy 3:15* _____

b. *John 15:3* _____

c. *Acts 20:32* _____

In order to grow spiritually, it is important that we read God's Word **EVERY DAY!** In order to be effective, this Bible reading needs to be systematic. A person who keeps going to his "favourite" passages, will be as stunted in his spiritual growth, as the child who eats nothing but candy. If you would like a daily reading plan, ask your church or cell group leader.

PRAYING

Prayer is communication with God. The Christian life is a life lived in close relationship with God. In order for any relationship to be mutually satisfying and meaningful, there must be a constant two way communication. God speaks to us in many ways, but chiefly through the Bible; we speak to Him when we pray.

What did Jesus say about prayer in *Luke 18:1*? _____

What do you think *1Thessalonians 5:17* means? _____

How can you be sure that God hears your prayer? *1John 5:14,15*

Praying through the promises God has given us in His Word, is a good way of knowing that we are praying in God's will.

2Peter 1:4, e.g. 1John 1:9.

How are we to pray?

- a. *John 14:13,14* _____
- b. *Luke 11:8* _____
- c. *Mark 11:24* _____

What should we do in order to overcome temptation?

- Matthew 26:41* a. _____
- b. _____

Read the following references concerning the prayer life of Jesus and write down the key point.

Matthew 14:23 _____

Matthew 26:36,39 _____

Mark 1:35 _____

Luke 9:18 _____

We should learn to talk to God about everything that affects us from day to day. He cares about every problem we face and He loves to share our joys too! Talk with Him in your car, walking down the footpath, doing the dishes etc. He never tires of sharing fellowship with us.

THE "QUIET TIME"

It is helpful to set aside a time each day during which you have fellowship with God. Such a time is known as a "quiet time," for in it we withdraw from the pressures of life around us, to read God's Word and pray. Some Christians have their "quiet time" first thing in the morning, others have it in the middle of the day, while others have it at night. The Bible recommends early in the morning, *Psalms 63:1*. Whichever time you choose, keep it regularly every day. This is a must as far as constant spiritual growth is concerned.

FELLOWSHIP WITH THOSE OF A STRONG FAITH IN CHRIST

You become like the people you associate with. Your closest friends should be Christians from whom you can learn so much. It is also important that you attend, and completely identify with, a Spirit-filled, Bible believing church, that will be able to guide and teach you in the ways of the Lord.