

BEN BORN AGAIN'S

NEW BELIEVER'S GROWTH BOOK



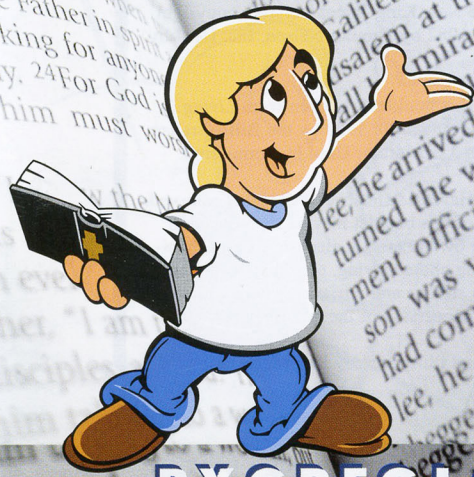
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Designed and illustrated by Rex Moraché.

BEN BORN AGAIN'S

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BY GREG LAURIE

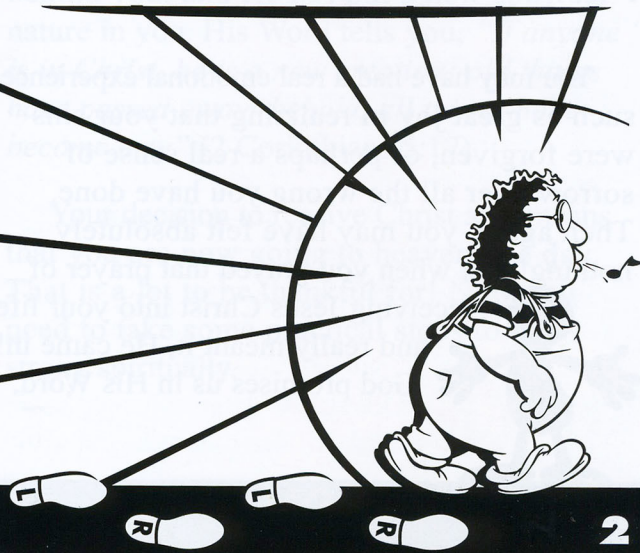
IT IS IMPORTANT
THAT YOU OPEN
YOUR BIBLE AND
LOOK UP THE
SCRIPTURE
REFERENCES
AS YOU READ
THROUGH
THIS BOOKLET.

FOLLOW THIS EXAMPLE:
JOHN 3:16 MEANS
THE BOOK OF JOHN,
CHAPTER 3, VERSE 16.

I'M BEN BORN AGAIN.
THIS IS MY BUDDY,
WILLIE.
WE WOULD LIKE
TO HELP YOU
TAKE YOUR FIRST
STEPS TOWARD
GROWING IN JESUS.

STEP THIS WAY

**THESE STEPS ARE IMPORTANT
FOR YOU, WHETHER YOU
ARE RECEIVING JESUS,
MAKING A RECOMMITMENT,
OR NEED FURTHER
ASSURANCE OF YOUR FAITH.**



WELCOME TO GOD'S FAMILY!

Whether you are receiving Christ as your personal Lord and Savior for the first time or rededicating your life back to Him, this can be the beginning of a new and fulfilling life for you as you follow the Lord. You may be wondering if Jesus Christ really came into your life when I led you in prayer recently.

You may have had a real emotional experience, such as great joy in realizing that your sins were forgiven, or perhaps a real sense of sorrow over all the wrong you have done. Then again, you may have felt absolutely nothing! But when you prayed that prayer of receiving Jesus Christ into your life and really meant it, He came in! God promises us in His Word,



“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God” (1 John 5:13).

God has promised you that He has come into your life. You have His word on it. That means your sins are forgiven, your past is behind you, and He has put a new spiritual nature in you. His Word tells you, *“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).*

Your decision to receive Christ also means that you are now going to heaven one day. That is a lot to be thankful for! Now you need to take some practical steps to grow strong spiritually.

3 BUILDING BLOCKS FOR GROWTH

There are three basic building blocks I would recommend, and a fourth that really is an outgrowth of the first three.

1. READ THE BIBLE

I cannot emphasize this enough. The Bible says, “*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness*”(2 Timothy 3:16 NIV). All that one needs to know about God – and for that fact, life in general – is found in the pages of Scripture.

The truths in this great Book are going to come alive to you, as the Author has taken residence in your heart. I recommend that you start with the Gospel of John, which is the story of the life and ministry



of Jesus. I would also recommend that you commit passages of Scripture to memory. The psalmist wrote, “*Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You*” (Psalm 119:11).

2. PRAY

The Bible says of prayer, “*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer . . . present your requests to God*” (Philippians 4:6 NIV). You can pray anytime. Take advantage of this wonderful privilege in which you have 24-hour access to the Creator of the universe!

3. GO TO CHURCH

The Bible tells us to “*not [forsake] the assembling of ourselves together . . .*”(Hebrews 10:25).



You need the encouragement of other Christians and the teaching of God's Word. If you do not know of a good Bible-teaching church in your area, write me and I will recommend one.

4 SHARE WITH OTHERS WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR YOU

Let others know how He has changed your life, and perhaps even invite them to come to church with you!

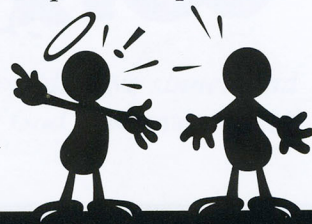
In closing, what you are essentially doing now is following Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Jesus said, "Follow Me," which literally means, "to walk the same road." It also implies "to continue" in that walk. Therefore, to follow Jesus is to walk the same road with Him in a



continual, consistent, ongoing manner. It should also be pointed out that the phrase, "Follow Me," could better be translated "Follow with Me." In other words, Jesus is promising to be our Companion and our Friend as we continually and consistently walk the same road with Him.

There are no shortcuts to growing spiritually. We need to apply ourselves regularly and consistently to His Word, prayer, and worshiping with other believers. You may not see the changes in your life overnight, but you will in time.

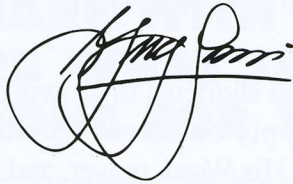
The Christian life is a wonderful adventure as we get to know personally the God who made us and discover His personal plan for our lives. It is also the greatest life there is! You have made the right decision for time and eternity.



CONGRATULATIONS!

I encourage you to take advantage of the many resources in this booklet. God bless you.

In Jesus,



Greg Laurie



BORN AGAIN!



God loves you and wants you to experience His peace and life.

The Bible says, *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16).

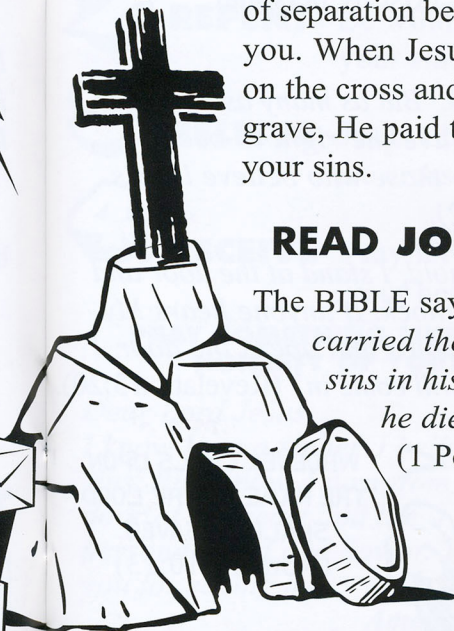
Being at peace with God is not automatic because you, by nature, are separated from God.

GOD & YOU
SIN

The BIBLE says, *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23).

GOD → & YOU

MAN HAS TRIED TO CLOSE THE SEPARATION BETWEEN GOD AND HIMSELF IN MANY WAYS, WITHOUT ANY SUCCESS.



God's love closes that gap of separation between God and you. When Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the grave, He paid the penalty for your sins.

READ JOHN 3:16

The BIBLE says, "*He personally carried the load of our sins in his own body when he died on the cross*" (1 Peter 2:24 TLB).



GOD YOU

You cross the bridge into God's family when you receive Christ by personal invitation.

The BIBLE says, "*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name*" (John 1:12).

Jesus said, "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in*" (Revelation 3:20).



WHOEVER CALLS UPON
THE NAME OF THE LORD
SHALL BE SAVED.
(Romans 10:13)

4 THINGS YOU NEED TO DO TO RECEIVE CHRIST

- 1. ADMIT** You have a spiritual need.
"I am a sinner."
- 2. REPENT** Be willing to turn from your sin.
- 3. BELIEVE** Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.
- 4. RECEIVE** Pray for Jesus Christ to enter your heart and life.

PRAY SOMETHING LIKE THIS FROM THE HONESTY OF YOUR HEART . . .

*Dear Lord Jesus,
I know I am a sinner. I believe you died for my sins. Right now, I turn from my sin and open the door of my heart and life. I receive you as my personal Lord and Savior. Thank you for saving me.*

Amen.



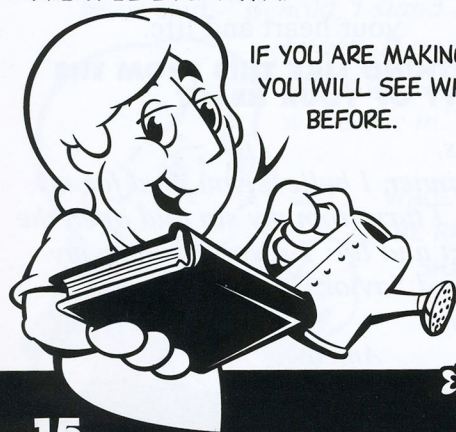
WHERE ARE YOU PLANTED?

Some seed fell by the wayside (along the path), was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. Jesus said the birds represent the devil, who steals the Word away before some really believe.

JESUS TOLD A STORY ABOUT A FARMER WHO WENT OUT TO SOW SOME SEED. THE SEED JESUS SPOKE OF IS THE WORD OF GOD.

READ: LUKE 8:4-15

JESUS TELLS YOU IN THIS STORY HOW TO HAVE A FRUITFUL LIFE IN HIM.



IF YOU ARE MAKING A RECOMMITMENT,
YOU WILL SEE WHY YOU FELL AWAY
BEFORE.

Some seed fell on the rocky ground, representing those who spring up eagerly at first, but when trials and temptation come, they fall away because they have no roots.



Some seed fell among thorns. Jesus said the thorns are the worries, riches, and pleasures of this life that grow up with the seed, choking out the fruit of these individuals' spiritual lives.

RICH SOIL TO GROW IN!

Other seed fell on good ground! These people are those who hear the Word and keep it, bearing much fruit with endurance.

Your commitment to Christ is reflected in one of these ways. Be determined to be a fruitful seed, growing in the rich soil of God's Word!



CHANGE!

It is important that we turn from our sin (which separates us from God). The Bible says, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new”* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

As we become new people in Jesus Christ, we should not live like nonbelievers do. *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God”* (Romans 12:2).



We find our attitudes, desires, and, as a result, our lifestyle changing. The Apostle Paul recognized this and wrote:

“Why all this stress on behavior? Because, as I think you have realized the present time is of the highest importance – it is time to wake up to reality. Every day brings God’s salvation nearer.

The night is nearly over, the day has almost dawned. Let us therefore fling away the things that men do in the dark, let us arm ourselves for the fight of the day! Let us live cleanly, as in the daylight, not in the delights of getting drunk or playing with sex, nor yet quarreling or jealousies. Let us be Christ’s men from head to foot, and give no chance to the flesh to have its fling”

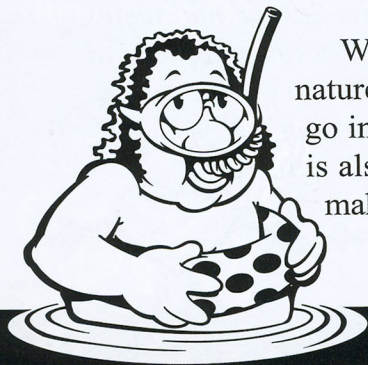
(Romans 13:11-14 PHILLIPS).



BAPTISM

Water baptism is an outward showing of an inward doing. The Bible tells us, "Do you not know that as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3-4).

IT'S LIKE A HAPPY FUNERAL!



We die to our old, sinful nature as we symbolically go into a watery grave. It is also a way of publicly making a stand for Jesus.



One thing you will find out really fast is that it is not hard to be Christian;

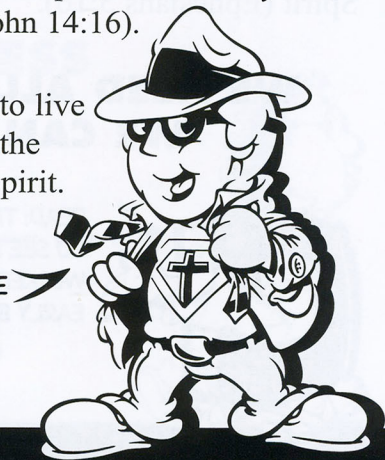
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

That is, apart from the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said, "*I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever*" (John 14:16).

Jesus wants you to live your life filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

THIS LOOKS LIKE
A JOB FOR THE
SPIRITUAL MAN!

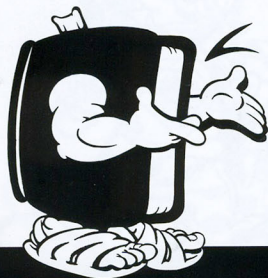


KABOOM!

He said, *“But you shall receive power [dynamite] when the Holy Spirit has come UPON you; and you shall be witnesses to Me”* (Acts 1:8, emphasis added).

The only effective way to live the Christian life and be a witness for Jesus Christ is through and by the power of the Holy Spirit. You might ask Jesus each day to fill you with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:16).

WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET!



READ: THE ENTIRE BOOK OF ACTS TO SEE HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKED IN THE LIVES OF THOSE EARLY BELIEVERS.

4 STEPS TO GROWTH!

1. **PRAY-TALK TO GOD**

2. **STUDY THE BIBLE**

3. **FELLOWSHIP**

4. **WITNESS**



1 PRAY! TALK TO GOD

Prayer is talking and listening to God. The Lord loves to hear from us. You can pray anytime you want to – driving your car, on your knees, wherever and whenever!

THE BIBLE SAYS:

“Pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18).



“I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth” (Psalm 34:1).

Jesus gave us a model prayer in the **GOSPEL OF LUKE 11:1-4**.

You can look it up and read it in your Bible.

When we sin (miss God’s mark), we should immediately confess our sins, for *“He is faithful and just to forgive us...from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9).

SIN (noun): Anything a person does that is contrary to the will of God. Missing the mark, like missing the center on a target.



READ:

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

JUDE 20; LUKE 18:1

ISAIAH 5:6; LUKE 11:5-13

PSALM 145:18

ECCLESIASTES 5:2

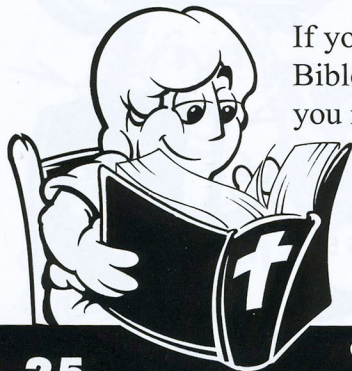


2. STUDY THE BIBLE

The Bible is like spiritual food! Just as you clothe and feed your physical body, you must clothe and feed your spiritual body! The Bible says:

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

It is good to take a portion of Scripture (a book of the Bible, a topic, etc.) and study it.



If you are reading the Bible for the first time, you might start with the Gospel of John.

“But his [the godly man’s] delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night” (Psalm 1:2).

In Ephesians 6:17 the Apostle Paul says, *“And take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”*

As Satan will tempt you to disobey God’s Word, the Scriptures are offensive weapons you can use against the temptation of Satan (read Luke 4:1-14). When Jesus was tempted, He replied with Scripture.

NOTE: See pages 31 and 32 under “Temptations.”

IT IS ALSO GOOD TO MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE. SEE THE MEMORY VERSES AT THE BACK OF THIS BOOKLET.

STUDY THE BIBLE CONTINUED

The Bible also tells us, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves”* (James 1:22).

We must practice what is taught in God’s Word. Jesus said, *“If you love Me, keep My commandments”* (John 14:15).

READ:

**PSALM 119; LUKE 11:28; JOHN 8:31;
HEBREWS 10:7; 1 PETER 2:2;
AND 2 PETER 1:4**



So, open your Bibles,
dig in, and have a
spiritual feast!

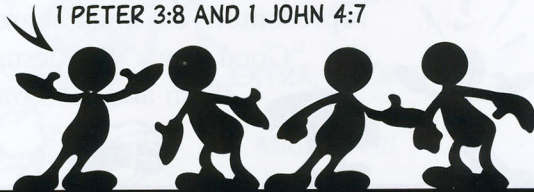
3. FELLOWSHIP

The Bible tells us we need to fellowship one with another. The word *fellowship* means *“a joint participation of things held in common by both.”*

In Hebrews 10:24-25, it says *“Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near”* (NASB).

It’s like a bunch of burning coals; if you separate one from the others, it will get cold and die.

READ: ACTS 2:42-47, EPHESIANS 5:2, 19, 30;
1 PETER 3:8 AND 1 JOHN 4:7



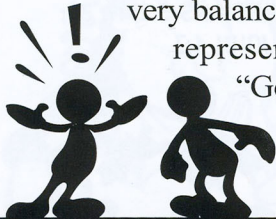
4. WITNESS

As a result of your praying, reading your Bible, and having fellowship, which are all taking in; you will want to start giving out! The way to do this is to witness.

Jesus said: *“Go into all the world and preach the gospel [good news] to every creature”* (Mark 16:15).

The Bible teaches, *“It is appointed for men to die once, and after this the [great white throne] judgment”* (Hebrews 9:27; see also Revelation 20:11-13).

We must realize that people’s souls are on the very balance of eternity! We, as God’s representatives, must share the “Good News” that Jesus loves them and died on the



cross so that their sins might be forgiven and that they might have abundant and eternal life.

As we learned about the power of the Holy Spirit (back on pages 20 and 21), we read that He gives us dynamite power to be witnesses for Jesus.

So, now that you have received that power, go and live, telling others how they, too, can have a new life in Jesus Christ.



TRIALS & TEMPTATIONS

As a result of growing spiritually as a Christian, you're going to experience what the Bible calls trials.

"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:6-7).

**READ: JAMES 1:1-4; HEBREWS 12;
AND 1 PETER 4:12**



There will be times in your Christian walk when you will not feel the presence of God. But our Christian walk should not be based on feelings; it should be based on faith. (Read Hebrews 11.) It is important to learn what the Lord is trying to teach us through these trials.

TEMPTATIONS

Now that you are serving the Lord, Satan is going to try to draw you away, tempting you to disobey God's Word. It's not a sin to be tempted, for even Jesus was tempted (Luke 4).

It only becomes sin when we give in to the temptation. God will never let a temptation become so strong that we can't handle it.

"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

The Bible gives us a formula for dealing with Satan's temptations: "*Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you*" (James 4:7).

There are **3Rs** that will help you deal with temptation.

1. REALIZE . . . WHO IS TEMPTING YOU (SATAN).

2. RESIST . . . THE DEVIL; HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU.

3. REJOICE . . . THE VICTORY IS YOURS IN JESUS!

READ: MATTHEW 13:22;
26:41; ROMANS 6:12;
ROMANS 8:35; AND
EPHESIANS 6:11-17



GOD'S WILL!

As Christians, it is very important that we know God's will for our lives. Jesus wants to guide us and speak to us! To know God's choice, we must hear His voice. It is important to know that God will usually speak in the spiritual realm, so you must listen with your spiritual ears.

Jesus said that His "sheep" (those who follow Christ) hear His voice (John 10:4).

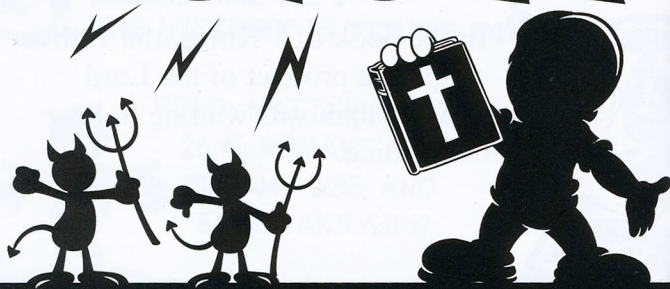
In the book of 1 Kings, the 19th chapter, a prophet of the Lord named Elijah was waiting to hear God's voice.



And God spoke to him in a still, small voice. Likewise, God will sometimes speak to us in a “still, small voice.” We simply must learn to listen for it.

At the same time, however, Satan will often try to deceive us into thinking we are hearing God's voice when it's really a counterfeit. For that reason, we must test all voices with God's lie detector:

THE BIBLE



3 BASIC WAYS TO KNOW GOD'S WILL

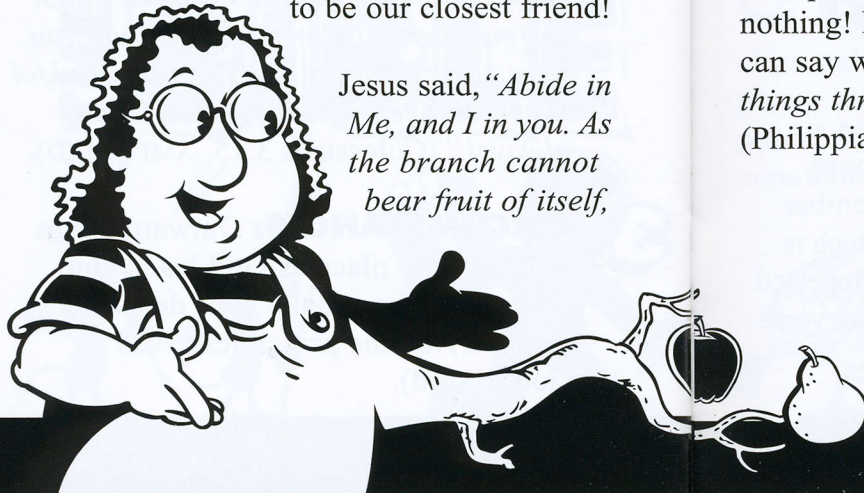
- 1. THE BIBLE:** God will never contradict the Bible (Acts 17:11). Go to the Scriptures in times of decision. Remember to read the Word of God in context.
- 2. THE PEACE OF GOD:** *“And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts [deciding and settling with finality all questions that arise in your minds, in that peaceful state] to which as [members of Christ’s] one body you were also called [to live]. And be thankful (appreciative), [giving praise to God always]”* (Colossians 3:15, AMPLIFIED).
- 3. CIRCUMSTANCES:** Outward things will fall into place as God leads you. (But remember: make your decisions primarily on the principles given in God's Word).

ABIDING IN CHRIST

In John's gospel, Jesus said, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you" (John 15:7).

What a promise! The word *abide* means, "A permanence of position, maintaining unbroken fellowship with another." We need to sink our spiritual roots deep into the Lord; besides being our heavenly Father, He wants to be our closest friend!

Jesus said, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself,



unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me" (John 15:4).

The "fruit" Jesus is speaking of is defined in Galatians 5:22: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness."

The Bible also tells us that whoever continually abides in Him will not continually sin (1 John 3:6).

Apart from Jesus Christ, we can do nothing! But, when we abide in Christ, we can say with the Apostle Paul, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).



-MEMORIZE BIBLE VERSES

IT TAKES A HABITUAL SEQUENCE
OF QUOTING:

1. The **TOPIC**
2. The **REFERENCE**
3. The **VERSE**
4. The **REFERENCE**

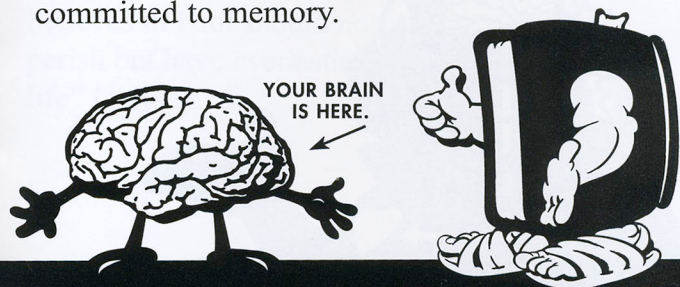


A. The reference is normally more difficult to remember than the verse, which is why it should be repeated before and after the verse.

The reference is like the handle on a suitcase, enabling you to lift up from the Bible a complete portion whenever needed.

B. The real secret of Scripture memory is review, review, review. "Either use it or lose it." Remember the verses as you remember a telephone number. Remember how you memorized telephone numbers? You dialed, Dialed, DIALED! You can memorize by review, Review, REVIEW!

C. Quote the verse aloud. Pray over the verse, asking God to make the meaning clear and applicable to you. Memorize one phrase at a time, using the reference, adding phrase by phrase until the entire verse is committed to memory.

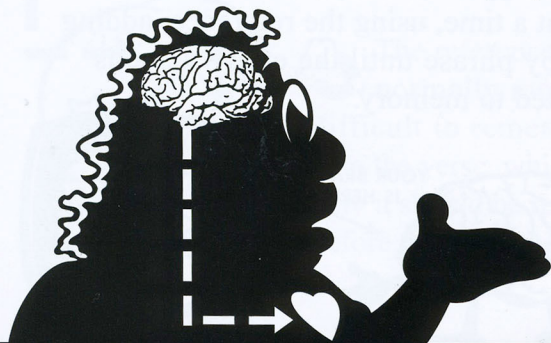


PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

VICTORY THROUGH THE WORD

“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You” (Psalm 119:9, 11).



APPLYING HIS WORD

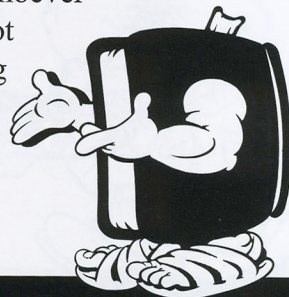
“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success” (Joshua 1:8).

FISHERS OF MEN

“Then He said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men’” (Matthew 4:19).

PROMISE OF SALVATION

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).



CONFIDENCE IN PRAYER

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him” (1 John 5:14, 15).

PROOF OF LOVE

“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him” (John 14:21).



“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE SUBJECTS THROUGH REVIEW AND MEMORIZE THE SCRIPTURE PASSAGES. YOU WILL FREQUENTLY FIND USE FOR THEM.



THERE IS HOPE IN GOD'S WORD

HOPE IN GOD'S WORD

AFFLICTIONS

Are often providential – Psalm 119:67, 71, 75

God will deliver – Psalm 34:19

ANXIETY

Is relieved through prayer – Philippians 4:6, 7

Remember God cares for you – 1 Peter 5:7

ASSURANCE

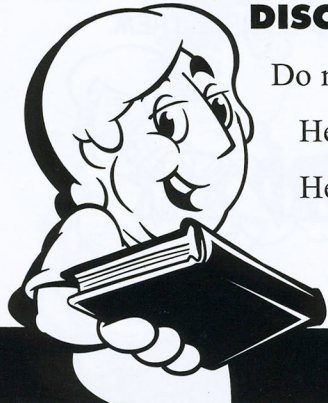
Eternal life promised – John 3:16

DISCOURAGEMENT

Do not give up – Galatians 6:9

He will never forsake you –

Hebrews 13:5, 6



COMFORT

Jesus, the Good Shepherd

Psalm 23

EMPTINESS

Christ can satisfy

Psalm 107:8, 9

He will fulfill your desires

Isaiah 41:10

GUILT

No condemnation – Romans 8:1

No sin is too great – Isaiah 1:18



SUFFERING

Suffering has profit—Hebrews 12:6, 11

It deepens your faith—1 Peter 1:6, 7

It is to be expected—1 Peter 2:19, 23

God's grace is sufficient—2 Corinthians 12:9, 10

TEMPTATIONS

How to avoid them—Mathew 26:41

What causes failure—James 1:13, 14

VICTORY



Is in Christ —

Philippians 4:13

Your inner source —

John 4:4

Seek God's help —

1 Corinthians 10:13

WORRY

God will provide —Philippians 4:19

Have faith in Him—Romans 4:20, 21

Claim His promises—1 John 5:14, 15

JUDGMENT

Everyone is accountable—Romans 14:12;

Hebrews 9:27

LONELINESS

His presence is promised—Hebrews 13:5, 6

In His presence is joy — Psalm 16:1



PROMISES

FROM GOD'S WORD

GOD'S LOVE IS UNFAILING

Isaiah 54:10

GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS

1 Peter 3:12

GOD CARES FOR US

2 Corinthians 9:8

WE ARE BLESSED IN CHRIST

Ephesians 1:3

GOD PROMISES PEACE

John 14:27

GOD PROMISES JOY

John 15:10, 11

GOD PROMISES REST

Matthew 11:28

GOD IS WITH US

Deuteronomy 31:8

GOD GIVES WISDOM

James 1:5

GOD IS IN CONTROL

Romans 8:28



NOTES:





JESUS NOTES:

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