

# DISCIPLESHIP PLAN



# FOR DEAF



## Next steps for the new Christian

After trusting Jesus Christ as my Savior ... what do I need to know next?

What things are most important?

What should I be careful about?

What will help me grow?

What will keep me from growing?

How do I know what the Bible teaches?

Helping a new Christian find answers to their questions, and to find guidance for their new life in Christ.

SPECIFICALLY WRITTEN FOR DEAF

# NEXT WHAT?

What things are needed most after a person has trusted Christ?

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## **INTRODUCTION** [<https://youtu.be/DL54P4BBOAE>]

Congratulations! You have begun a new journey in your life. Before, you were just driving down a road with no idea where you would end up. You were just taking whatever road was in front of you, hoping you had found the right way to happiness, and success. You have been following what other people have told you was a good direction to travel.

Now you have made the decision to find out what God wants you to do with your life. There is no better guide for this walk through life, than your Bible. This study is coming to you because it is important that you start your trip with God knowing where you should go. There are specific things you need to know for your trip.

In this series of lessons, the goal is to help you to know, first, how to enter a relationship with God; and then what comes next. After you receive Christ, what does God teach us to do next? On an exciting vacation you plan the places that you would like to visit before you leave home. In your life as a new Christian, you should plan the places you want to go as a Christian. There are some things that will help you to have success in the Christian life, and there are some things you should stay away from on this trip.

God gave us a book to guide us through this life. He offers us a clear roadmap for success in the Christian life on the pages of the Bible. God wants you to have a good trip on your way to Heaven. We will study the important things that God wants each of His children to enjoy along the way of their life. God not only wants you to enter His family, but also wants you to grow along the way. He wants you to live the right way, and to stay away from things that will hurt your spiritual life.

In this study we will consider some of the important truths that God wants us to know so we can live in a way that will please Him. God has planned these things to help us to live successfully. These are not things you will learn from history books, or science books, or “how-to” books. We will learn these important lessons from the book we call the Bible, or God’s Word.

The lessons that follow will cover topics that every new Christian needs to learn to be successful. Thank you for joining me on this trip towards our Heavenly home.

## 1. What does saved, or salvation mean? [<https://youtu.be/WvTFCCbXRag>]

What does “saved” mean? What does “salvation” mean? When we think of the word, “saved,” we might think of a person who cannot swim being saved from drowning, or a person trapped in a burning car wreck being pulled from the wreckage. Some people might think of “saving” money in the bank. These ideas are good, but when Jesus used the word, “saved,” He was not talking about being rescued from the water, from a burning car, or from saving money. He was talking about being saved from Hell, separation from God, and the punishment for our sins.

Just like the person who is drowning needs someone from outside the water to reach out to them ... and just like the person trapped in a burning vehicle needs someone outside the car to come to get them out of the car; every sinner needs a someone who has not sinned, to come to rescue them from their sin. Jesus did just that when He left Heaven to walk on this earth (without sinning), and then died on the cross in our place, and for our sin. He came to where we were, and reached out to us so we could be “saved” from our sin.

*John 5:24 – Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

When Jesus used this picture to explain the word, “saved.”

*John 10:7-10 – Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

There is no other way to get into Heaven, but by entering THE DOOR – Jesus Christ. If we try to have our sins forgiven through religion, or doing more good than bad, or taking communion, or any other way ... we are trusting a thief and a robber to get us there – it will not work! Only Jesus is the Door to Heaven.

Jesus said, *I am the way, the truth, and the life : no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.* – *John 14:6*. This means that there is no other way for you and me to touch Heaven. We must have Jesus as our Savior. We need Jesus as our Forgiver. We must have Jesus as our payment for sin to be able to touch Heaven.

“*Salvation*” is a word that describes what happens when we are “saved” – we receive “*salvation*.”

## 2. Assurance of salvation – once saved, always saved [<https://youtu.be/Ni93Reqq4a4>]

When you ask Jesus to save you, He does! He does everything that needs to be done to save you. You cannot do anything to earn your salvation. You simply received Jesus to be saved. You asked Him to forgive you. You asked Jesus to save you. You trusted Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection to forgive your sins.

Answer this question ... will you sin again after you have received Christ and were saved?

Yes, you will! Does that mean that you will need to be saved again? No, you do not need to be saved again. Really, you cannot be saved again!

Jesus gave us a great picture to explain this. In John 3, Nicodemus came to Jesus and to ask Him if He had come from God. Here is Jesus' answer:

*John 3:3 – Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

Jesus told Nicodemus that to be able to go to Heaven, a person must be "born again." Those words mean, born from above. You have already had a physical birthday. Each of us has a day when we were born into this world. What is your birthday?

Let me ask you another question ... can you have two physical birthdays? The answer is NO! It is not possible to have two physical birthdays because you can only be born one time!

So, Jesus said we need to be born again. Jesus was telling Nicodemus that just like he had a physical birthday to enter this world, he needed a spiritual birthday to enter Heaven. Jesus described it this way:

*John 3:5 – Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

*John 3:6 – That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit*

When you were born, you did nothing – your parents did all the work. As long as you live, you are their child. If you have your blood tested, or your hair, or a sample of your skin, it will be connected to your parents through your DNA (Deoxyribo Nucleic Acid).

In the same way, when you received Jesus as your Savior – He did all the work. From now through eternity, you are a child of God. If you have fully trusted Christ, His blood has been placed on your account, and you now have Jesus' spiritual DNA in you.

You might disappoint your parents someday because you fail to please them. Your parents might even tell you that you are no longer in their family. It does not matter what they say to you about being in their family. Your blood, hair, and skin will prove that their DNA is in you, and you are their child.

You will disappoint God because you will fail Him – you will sin. God might be disappointed, but you can never leave His family. His Son's blood (His DNA) is on your account. You have become a child of God, and you will never leave His family forever.

This means that once you have received Christ, He keeps you as His child for eternity. Here are some good Scripture to read and remember.

*2 Timothy 1:12 – ... for I know whom I have believed, and am **persuaded** that **he** is able to **keep that which I have committed unto him** against that day.*

*Persuaded* means, convinced, or confident

*He* – you must go back to verse 7 to see that this is talking about GOD

*Keep* – set a guard around something

*That which I have committed unto him* – my salvation – my everlasting life

Philippians 1:6 – *Being confident of this very thing, that **he** which hath **begun** a good work in you **will perform it** until the day of Jesus Christ.*

*He* – you must go back to verse 7 to see that this is talking about GOD

*Begun* – God saved you – He started that new birth in you, not you ...

*Will perform it* – perform means to bring it to the end – complete it

John 10:27-29 – *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give **eternal life** to them, and **they will never perish**; and **no one will snatch them out of My hand**. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and **no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand**.*

The picture Jesus showed through this is His promise to hold us in His hand, and then the promise that God also places His hand around Jesus' to hold us

The reality is that no one ... including you ... can remove us from the hands of Jesus and God – to remove eternal life from us

Ephesians 1:13-14 – ***In whom ye also trusted**, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, **ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise**, Which is the **earnest of our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

*Sealed* – when a king sent a letter, they dropped hot wax on the outside of the envelop where the flap closed it – they then took their ring and make a mark in the warm wax – if that wax was broken, or removed, the person receiving the letter knew it could not be trusted – the SEAL was insurance that the original message was protected

*Holy Spirit of promise* – God SEALS a person who trusts Jesus with His Holy Spirit – He comes to live inside a person who is saved, and keeps us protected until we meet God

*Earnest* – this is the same thing as a down payment to hold something until the person buying it would pick it up

When a person asks Jesus to save them, God seals us like the wax on the envelop, and the down payment on a debt

You needed God to do all the work. Jesus had to come from Heaven as a perfect, pure, holy, and righteous human being. Jesus had to live without sin for His entire life. Jesus had to go to the cross and die to pay for your sins. Jesus had to rise from the dead to conquer death, Hell, and the Devil for you. Jesus has done all that for you already.

When you received Jesus as your Savior, you took the gift God offered of His Son by faith. You did not earn it. You did not work for it. You were not good enough to go to Heaven on your own. God did all the work to save you. God does all the work to keep you saved forever. There was nothing you could do to get this forgiveness. There is nothing you can do now to keep that forgiveness. These are in the control of God in Heaven!

Your salvation is safe in the hands of God – you do not need to worry about losing what God had given you. If you ever doubt that you are saved, be sure that you are depending on Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection to go to Heaven. If you have trusted Jesus, and are depending only on Him to be saved, the Bible tells you that you are saved and going to Heaven!

### 3. How to confess sin the Bible way [<https://youtu.be/qKanhIGcob4>]

Once a person is saved, they are saved forever. After you are saved you will sin again. God helps us to know how to have our sins forgiven. As is true with every important part of our lives, God gives us the answer for these questions in the Word of God.

*1 John 1:8-9 – If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

John made it very clear that even after a person is saved, they will sin. To say that you will not sin after you have been saved is simply a lie. When we understand that we have sinned, we also know that we have sinned against God! Because we have sinned against God, we need to make things right with Him. Remembering Jesus' words to Nicodemus about being born again; and remembering that we have become a child of God through that spiritual birth; we need to go to the God we have sinned against for forgiveness.

*1 John 1:9* tells us that when we sin, we need to confess that sin to God. "*Confess*" is a word that means, to say the same thing as someone else. To agree with them. This verse explains that when we sin, we need to agree with God about our sin. To say the same thing about our sin that God says. We cannot be forgiven of our sin until we agree with God that our sin was against Him. When we agree with God, we will be asking for full forgiveness.

The only way for us to know complete forgiveness is to depend on Jesus' payment on the cross for our sin. When we confess our sin, God is *faithful and just to forgive us our sins*. We know God is faithful. We also know that He is *just*. This word means being fair to others. When we confess our sins to God, He is faithful, and fair to *cleanse us from all unrighteousness*.

Depending on Jesus we can be sure that we can be fully forgiven of our sins! It is very important that we make sure we confess our sins so we can be clean before God. After we receive Jesus, we need to walk with God. We need to agree with God to be able to be clean before Him.



#### 4. Why baptism is important [<https://youtu.be/cq2J1GtpNpY>]

Two questions to start: what is baptism? The word baptism means to dip. It was used of dipping a cloth in dye to change the color of the cloth. To do that, the cloth needed to be dipped underneath the dye to completely cover the cloth. The word also meant to submerge. That word looks like another word we use ... submarine. We know that a submarine goes completely under the water. This answers the question, what does it mean?

The second question is why is baptism important? If you have ever flown on a plane, you will be asked for a driver's license, or a passport. The security people require a form of identification. Depending on where you work, you might be given a card with your name and picture on it, along with an identification number. They call this an "ID card." That card connects you with the information in the airport, or the information number that connects you with your address, social security number, or birthdate. Baptism is a spiritual way for us to be identified with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

Jesus was baptized to show the beginning of His earthly ministry when He was old 30. Jesus was baptized to identify Himself with us. He was not baptized to remove His sin. He had no sin. Your baptism cannot remove your sin. Your baptism should follow the time you asked Jesus to save and forgive you. It shows the beginning of your walk with Christ. Just like Jesus was baptized to show the beginning of His 3-year ministry (up until His crucifixion), you are showing the beginning of your spiritual life with Him going into the future.

Water baptism is a physical picture of a spiritual action that happened to you when you prayed to receive Jesus as your Savior. It is a physical picture. When you stand in the water, it is a picture of Jesus hanging on the cross for you. When you go under the water, it is a picture of Jesus' body being buried in the tomb for you. When you stand back up from being under the water, it is a picture of Jesus rising from the dead for you. This is a great picture of the death, burial, and resurrection. Pouring water on you, or sprinkling water over your head does not show Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

The earliest Christians who were saved, followed Jesus' example and were baptized. They were baptized as a way to identify themselves with Him. We do this for the same reason today. After a person is saved, they should want to show everyone that they are connected to Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. We are baptized today to show that we want to live for Jesus for the rest of our lives!

*Matthew 28:19-20 – Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

The first Christians set the example for those of us who would be saved later in time. After they received Jesus as their Savior, they were baptized. Following their baptism, they joined the church. Because of their example, we do not accept people into membership in our local church without them having been baptized after their salvation. If a person is willing to be baptized after their salvation, it shows that they have identified with Jesus and are not ashamed to be named as His child.

*Acts 2:41 – Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*

Baptism is an outward showing (we are baptized where others can see) of what has happened inside our hearts (a place no one can see). The apostle Paul wrote using baptism as a way to tell us that in the same way we go fully under the water in baptism, we should

have our lives totally covered by the Holy Spirit. Our relationship with Jesus should result in a life-change for the Christian. Water baptism does not save you, but it is something that lets others know that you are serious about your commitment to Jesus.

*Romans 6:1-6 – What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

*Galatians 3:26-27 – For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

There are many religions that teach that we should baptize our babies. What should we think about “infant baptism?” Here is a simple question ... how many times does a baby being baptized show up in the Bible?

The answer is that “infant baptism” cannot be found anywhere in the Bible. If God did not include baptizing babies, we should not believe it. The enemy of Christ (the Devil) uses baptism to confuse believers and unbelievers with something that is important. Study the Bible to see what it teaches about baptism. Follow Jesus’ example and be baptized!

## 5. How to find and join a good church [[https://youtu.be/rjfl\\_JCfovww](https://youtu.be/rjfl_JCfovww)]

Just after Jesus finished His earthly ministry and ascended into Heaven, the early Christians began to meet together on the first day of the week – Sunday. They met on Sunday because they celebrated Jesus’ resurrection on that first morning!

Those first believers met together every week because many of their families totally separated from them after they received Christ. Many lost their jobs. Many had lost their homes. Many of them were pushed away by their unbelieving families. They had no one to stand with them to help them in their lives. They met together because they needed each other. They met together because they needed the fellowship and support of Christian brothers and sisters.

*Acts 1:14 – These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.*

We meet together today for the same reasons. We need fellowship; we need support from our Christian brothers and sisters; and we need to be strengthened by other believers today too! The early Christians needed a family. We call people who are also saved, “brother” and “sister.” We do that because many believers today also need a family that loves them. We are children of God, and are a part of the family of God. Just like we need a physical family, we need our church family as well.

We are challenged to meet together regularly for the purposes of knowing what we believe; encouraging each other to love; and to show good works in our communities. When we are faithful to a local church, these things will happen. When we do not do these things, they will not be in our lives. We are challenged to do this even more as times get tougher to stand for Christ. We are living in difficult times, and we need the support of a good local church.

*Hebrews 10:23-25 – Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

The Bible requirements for joining a local church were simple: a person must be saved and baptized. These are the only Bible requirements. If a person is saved and baptized, they should be a part of a good, Bible-believing, preaching, teaching church.

## 6. How to surrender to the conviction of the Holy Spirit [<https://youtu.be/KpzgeaaL3-M>]

One of the amazing things that happens when you receive the gift of forgiveness from God through Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, is that the Holy Spirit of God comes to live within you. You don't need to ask Him to come. He came immediately after you received Jesus. He came to live within you. This is called the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Part of what the Holy Spirit does while living inside you is helping you to know when you are sinning. You have done things your whole life before knowing Jesus that were a part of your sin nature. The Holy Spirit living in you does not like sin. He loves you enough to let you know when you are doing things that God does not like. This is called conviction.

*John 16:7-8 – Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter [Holy Spirit] will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

The Holy Spirit guides us into the truth of the Word of God so we can understand it clearly. He teaches us what God wants us to know from the Bible He gave us. If a Christian has problems understanding the Bible, they need to simply ask the Holy Spirit help them understand the Bible.

*John 16:13 – Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

The Holy Spirit does many other things for us, but these are things that we can thank God He does for us every day. How can we thank God? There are three things we can do for Him. We can ...

Yield to the Holy Spirit. We Sign, "surrender" for the word, *yield*. The idea is that we have the Holy Spirit living inside us, and we need to let Him lead our decisions. That means that we surrender our plans to the Holy Spirit. We surrender whatever happens in our lives to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Before we were saved, we yielded to the sin nature inside us. Now that the Holy Spirit lives within us, we need to yield to Him!

*Romans 6:13 – Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

*Romans 6:19 – I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.*

The second thing we need to do with the Holy Spirit within us, is to be careful not to grieve the Holy Spirit. Like a child can disappoint a parent, it is possible for the believer to disappoint the Holy Spirit. Just like a child who loves his parent wants to do things to please them, we ought to live in a way that will please Him.

*Ephesians 4:30 – And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

The third thing we should do is to live in a way that demonstrates that we are sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading in our lives. We want to show the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives by the way we live every day. The seed that is dropped in the ground will produce fruit. The Spirit of God Who is within the believer, will produce fruit in the life of the believer that everyone should be able to see.

*Galatians 5:22-23 – But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

## 7. How to witness to friends/family that are unsaved [<https://youtu.be/zhQSZ3Z9XzE>]

Just like you had to learn about your sin before a righteous God, your friends and family that have not trusted Christ yet need to learn the same way. If you were building a new house, you would start at the bottom and build up from the foundation. Explaining to a person that has not trusted Jesus, needs to be done the same way. You start at the foundation and build the “house” up from there, one step at a time.

Paul wrote in [Romans 1:16](#), *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.* Notice the important words that Paul used in this verse. He said that the *gospel* was *the power of God unto salvation*. It would help us to understand what the word, *gospel*, means. It is simple: the *gospel* is the good news that Jesus came to earth to die, be buried, and rise from the dead to pay for our sins. It is not our fancy explanations that help people become saved. It is not a fancy church building. It is not a great colorful pamphlet (tract) to hand someone. It is a clear and simple explanation of what the Bible says is the way to Heaven. This is the foundation we need to use.

There are five verses in the book of Romans that clearly explain the *gospel*. The first thing a person must understand is that no one is perfect – everyone has sinned. There are two verses that explain this clearly:

[Romans 3:10](#) – *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

[Romans 3:23](#) – *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

These two verses tell us that there is not one human being on the earth that can say they have never sinned. This means that everyone has done things wrong. Sin is anything that is not perfect. Many people think it is only things like murder, or rape; but the truth is that when you do not tell the entire truth about something, that is a lie, and is sin. When you take something that is not yours, that is stealing, and is sin. If you have an evil thought, that is sin. If you say something about someone that hurts them, that is sin.

There are many things that are sins. These two verses explain that everyone is a sinner. If a person is ever to touch Heaven, they must understand that they cannot earn Heaven. Sin blocks a person from entering Heaven.

The second thing a person must understand about the Gospel is that what our sin earns us, is not an open door to Heaven, but a separation from God.

[Romans 6:23](#) – *For the wages of sin is death ...*

The word, *wages*, simply means the thing we have earned. A *wage* is what you are paid for the work you have done. Everyone is a sinner. That sin blocks a person from entering Heaven. That is because Heaven is a perfect place, where a perfect God lives. The thing that we earn for our sin, is *death*. Let's explain what that word means to us standing before God.

When we think about *death*, we think about physical death, but it is far more than that. Follow me back to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. God told Adam very clearly: *But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die* – [Genesis 2:17](#). Do you think God was talking about physical death, or spiritual death? I believe God was talking about spiritual death. What does “spiritual death” mean?

When we die physically, we are separated from our family and friends because they are still alive, and life is gone from us. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command NOT

to eat the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, the fellowship they had enjoyed with God was broken. God was perfect. Adam and Eve were now sinners, and that sin separated them from God. They died spiritually the day they disobeyed God.

The *wages* of their sin earned them spiritual separation from God. Every person from Adam and Eve until today were then born with sin in their heart. That means that we are all separated from God Who is holy, because of our sin. Just like Adam and Eve were forced to leave the Garden of Eden because of their sin, we are not allowed in the presence of God with our sin. Because God lives in Heaven, we cannot go there with our sin. It must be forgiven!

Review – all of us are sinners – that sin separates us from God and Heaven. That brings us to the next verse. God was not satisfied to be separated from us because of our sin. He knew that the only way for Him to be satisfied, and our sin to be forgiven, was for His Son to come to earth to live without sin; die for our sins; and be buried. The Bible explains it this way:

**Romans 5:8** – *But God commendeth [proved] his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

It is clear that we cannot do anything to forgive our own sins, because we continue to sin all the time. We need God to reach out to us. We cannot reach to Him. He had to reach to us. He proved that He loved us when He sent Jesus to take on our sin, and to die on the cross for us. Jesus needed to die for us because the wages of our sin was death. Jesus proved His love for us when He died on the cross for us.

We know that Jesus took our sin on Himself on the cross, because one of the first words He spoke from the cross was, *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me* – **Matthew 27:46**? God turned His face from Jesus while He was on the cross because our sin was on Him, and God cannot look on sin. Jesus paid the full price for our sin when He died on the cross for us, and in our place.

The last verse that we must understand to go to Heaven is the most important. A person can believe that they are a sinner, and that their sin would keep them out of Heaven. They can even believe that Jesus died for sinners. They can know all that and not be going to Heaven. The Devil believes all those things, but he will not be going to Heaven. A person can believe in their mind all these things, and not be going to Heaven. It requires more than using your brain. It requires a change of heart. Each individual person must make a personal decision. Here is the last verse a person needs to understand.

**Romans 10:9** – *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

The word *confess* means to agree with someone. In this verse it means that for a person to go to Heaven, they must agree with God that the Lord Jesus is the only One that can forgive sins. Agreeing with God is something we must do to be able to enter Heaven. We will not do it by some way that we think is good, but only the way He requires. So what is it that this verse tells us God requires?

We must believe in our heart – not our head, or our mind – in the Lord Jesus as the One and only sacrifice that is worthy to pay for our sin there on the cross. We must also believe that after He was buried for three days, that He rose from the grave. The *gospel* that Paul spoke about in **Romans 1:16**, mentioned the power of the *gospel* – the good news – death – burial – resurrection of Jesus. It is important to let that gospel do the work of saving.

The last, and most important part of this last step is that God requires us to believe that Jesus not only died for our sins on the cross; He rose from the dead after being dead for three days. The fact that Jesus rose from the dead is what gives Him the power to forgive our sins. Jesus is the only person to meet all that God required for the forgiveness of our sins. He, like a lamb, was innocent and pure. He suffered and died in our place. However, because He was God in a human body, He had the power over physical death, and He rose from the dead.

He was the only sacrifice for sin that died, and then delivered His blood as payment for our sins to God Himself after He rose from the dead. A person cannot be forgiven of sins without the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus – the perfect Savior. A person must receive Jesus and trust Him completely to have their sins forgiven.

Jesus is the only way for a person to go to Heaven. Jesus said it this way: *... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*— [John 14:6](#). According to Jesus, He is the only way to Heaven.

If you explain this to someone and they want to receive Jesus, use these verses and have them pray with you to receive Jesus. Have them pray something like this: *Jesus, I know that I am a sinner (Romans 3:10, 23). I know that my sin separates me from You (Romans 6:23). I believe that Jesus came as a perfect sacrifice to died to pay for my sins, and that He was buried (Romans 5:8). I believe Jesus rose from the dead (Romans 10:9) and is the only One Who can forgive my sins. I will trust Jesus and only Him to forgive my sins, and give me a home in Heaven. In Jesus' Name Amen.*

After a person has received Jesus, it is good to review the verses that explain being sure that you are saved forever.

## 8. How to read and understand the Bible [<https://youtu.be/jjefe0dgQ8g>]

God gave us a wonderful book we call the Bible. He wants us to understand it, and follow what it teaches. The Bible is a wonderful book, but if we don't read it and obey it, it will not help us. It is important that we spend time in the Bible every day. How should we read the Bible? How can we understand it?

**Psalm 119:11** – *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

The first thing is simple. We need to read the Bible, and we need to decide that we will obey the truths that are in it. Reading words is one thing, but actually agreeing to do those things is far more important. We don't want to only read and see the Word of God, but we need to allow those truths to change our behavior.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** – *All **scripture** [the Bible] 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 perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

The Bible (*scripture*) is *profitable* – that means it is helpful. It is helpful for four things: *doctrine* – the things that are truthful teaching – *reproof* – these are the teaching about the things we do that are wrong – *correction* – this is the teaching that the way to change the things that are bad, into things that are right and good – *instruction in righteousness* – this is teaching that helps us to keep going in the right direction.

God knows what we need the most and He designed the Bible to help us by the things that are written. If you wrote a letter for your children, you would tell them things they should do to be successful, and you would tell them things to stay away from that would hurt them. The Bible is the same for us.

The Bible can be divided into different parts:

History books – Genesis through II Chronicles

Poetry books – Job through Song of Solomon

Prophet books – Isaiah through Malachi – these were books written about the future

The life of Jesus – Matthew through John

The beginning of the New Testament church – Acts

Books about how to live today – Romans through Jude

The last book of prophecy - Revelation

Each part of the Bible is valuable and helps you to know how to live right in a world that is going in the wrong direction.

Plan to read the New Testament through in one year – then plan to read the Old Testament through the next year. It is good to read your Bible every day.

Understanding your Bible – there are words that are hard to understand when studying the Bible. They are hard for Hearing and Deaf. There are good tools you can use to help you understand the Bible. Silent Word Ministries has a number of things written to help you. We have books that help you understand hard KJV words. We have a Deaf Bible Dictionary for the New Testament, and individual books from the Old Testament. There are many other materials SWM prints that you can use.

You can also use a dictionary, a concordance or a Bible dictionary, or your computer. When words are hard to understand, look them up, and write down what they mean so the next



time you read that word, you will be able to understand it. There are good programs that are free that you can get on your computer that will help you look up words and see what they mean. The best that I have used is called, "e-sword.net" (<https://e-sword.net>).

There are many tools to help you study the Bible. The most important thing is to get in a good church that teaches the Bible regularly. Read your Bible each day, and ask the Holy Spirit to lead you into the truths that are in the Bible.

## 9. How to live righteously in an unrighteous world – [<https://youtu.be/g0s94yonAew>]

Jesus taught us that a person who is a believer should live differently from those in the world. There should be a difference between a Christian and a person who is not a Christian. Before you were saved, we will call ... **B.C. – Before Christ**. The time you live after you are saved should **show a difference**. That means that our **habits, behavior, and actions** should **show a difference** from what we were before. Jesus preached a message and He talked about some important area's that our lives should show this change.

Jesus taught that a person who is a **Christian** should be like **light**, and **salt**. Light and salt are things that make big **difference**. Neither one blend into the world they live in. They are different, and they each make a difference. What is God's plan for the Christian? Christians should **be different** and **make a difference** in the world. How can we do this? *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"* (Romans 12:2).

The word, CONFORMED, means to be poured into a mold – like hot wax poured into a mold. Don't let the world give you counsel or try to change you. Don't live your life by allowing the world to tell you how to live.

We need to be TRANSFORMED – connected to the power. There is only one place for power in our lives – it is the Word of God. Instead of allowing the world to influence you, read you Bible, and let it transform your life!

We need to decide that we will be the person that God can use to make a difference in our world today. Surrender your life to live in the right way that is different than the normal way of living. Before you received Christ, you are motivated by your human desires. After you are saved, the Holy Spirit begins to live within you. The Holy Spirit (God in you) wants to help you live right. He desires to control you. Your old desires will still battle to control what you do, even after you are saved. What is the key to this battle? Surrender ... surrender every day to the control of the Holy Spirit. As you surrender your will and desires to His will and desires, you will show the changes that God planned for you.

## 10. How to give your money [<https://youtu.be/zqpg2ZcVpDc>]

Many people who have just received Christ as their Savior have heard different things about how they should give their money. It is a good thing there are many verses in the Bible about how to control our money, and what we as Christians should do with our money. It is very important to understand that everything we have, including our money, is a gift from God. There were many times during Jesus' three-year ministry that He spoke about money. Look with me about some of what Jesus taught about what we should do with our money.

The first thing Jesus taught is that we are not to make a big show of the money we give. We are to give our money to the Lord, not so we can get applause from the people around us. Jesus said it this way in Matthew 6:

**Matthew 6:1-4** – *Take heed that ye do not your alms [giving] before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. [6:2] Therefore when thou doest thine alms [giving], do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. [6:3] But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: [6:4] That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.*

The Apostle Paul added these thoughts about giving with a right attitude. Paul also helped us to see that our giving is like a farmer planting seeds. Paul wrote,

**II Corinthians 9:6-7** *But this I say, He which soweth [plants seed] sparingly [just a few] shall reap also sparingly [just a few]; and he which soweth bountifully [many] shall reap also bountifully [many]. [9:7] Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

So we see that we are not to give, making sure other people are watching us, and noticing what we give. We are also supposed to give with joy in our heart, understanding that what we give, like a seed, will produce fruit for God. So we should give faithfully, and without holding onto it. If we hold onto our money, we will find that we have trouble paying our bills. If we give when God touches our heart, we will see that somehow God meets all our needs.

What does tithing mean? The word, “*tithe*” means one-tenth, or 10%. The idea of giving 10% of our money to the servants of God began in the Old Testament. The first time the word appears in the bible is in Leviticus 27

**Leviticus 27:30** – *And all the **tithe** of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD.*

When God gave this command to Moses, they did not have paper money, or coins. They had the vegetables, fruit, and animals that they used to live. God instructed them to bring 10% (the tithe) to the priests as a gift to God. God used this tithe to take care of His servants. We are told that we ought to follow this same path, and give our tithe to our local church, to help the people who serve us there.

We are encouraged to give so missionaries can go into the areas of the world where the Word of God has not been preached before. Ever since the first missionaries, Barnabas and Saul, left their home church to go preach where no one had gone before, they depended on their home church to give to help them make that trip. Paul often wrote thank you notes back to the people who gave so they could continue to preach to others. Paul said this to the church in Philippi:

**Philippians 4:16-19** – *For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. But I have*

*all, and abound: I am full, having received ... the things which were sent from you, ... a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

Paul taught a very important truth in these statements. God saw the giving of the church in Philippi to help them stay on the mission field.

Paul said that God would take care of their needs because they had given to help meet his needs on the mission field.

General teaching about giving:

Jesus was at the temple with His disciples, and he saw rich people giving large amounts of money. He then saw a widow who did not have much money. She came and gave only two mites – this is the same as about \$2 today. Jesus made this statement to His disciples:

*Mark 12:43-44 – And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.*

Jesus reminded His disciples, and He reminds us that it is not the amount of money that a person gives that pleases God. It is the heart a person has when they give that is most important. The rich people gave more than the widow, but they were giving from the “extra money” they had. The widow lady gave from money that she did not have, but sacrificed to give.

This dear widow could have argued that the rich people should be giving the money. She did not have as much as they did, and she should have been able to keep her “mites.” However, she loved God so much that she wanted to give what she had to God to help the ministry.

She had learned the key to giving. Jesus spoke about it in one simple verse.

*Matthew 6:21 – For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*

Jesus again was teaching that you can see what things are valuable you by what you spend your money on. If you do not want to give God the tithe (the 10%) He asks you to give, can you really say that you love God ... that you treasure the things He treasures?

Paul added one more thing about our giving that I think is important for Christians to remember:

*I Corinthians 16:2 – Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.*

There are some important instructions for our giving in this verse:

- *Upon the first day of the week* – this is the day we meet to worship – Sunday – we are told to bring our gifts to the meeting on Sunday when we come to church
- *Lay by him in store* – this means that we set aside some money after we get paid – we purposely take that 10%, or more – it should be the first thing we do with our earned money – even before paying our bills
- *As God hath prospered him* – God did not ask us all to give the same thing – 10% of what you earn is fair to all – if you make \$100, you give \$10 – if you make \$5,000, you give \$500 – it is fair

This is how God planned for us to give – it is your choice – you will be blessed if you follow God’s plan, and you will be sad if you do not. God gave everything for you when He gave His Son to die for your sins. Plan to give back to God. You will be happy you did.

## 11. How to pray and fast [[https://youtu.be/NiOaM0ev\\_gU](https://youtu.be/NiOaM0ev_gU)]

The Bible tells us to “*pray without ceasing*” – I Thessalonians 5:17. This does not mean that we should never stop praying, but it does mean that we should have a heart that is ready to pray all the time. After you have received Jesus as your Savior, it is important that you talk to Him. Prayer is simply you talking to God. It is good to follow a simple plan when praying.

*Matthew 7:7-8 – Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.*

Start by telling God how much He means to you. Worship Him and thank Him – for what He has done – for Who He is – tell Him how much you love and are thankful for Him. After you have worshipped God, it is important to take some time to confess your sins. That means you ask God to forgive you for doing things that you know He does not approve. That you agree with Him that you have failed Him, and ask Him to help you to do what is right. After you have thanked God, and confessed your sin, it is now time to ask God for the things you need.

Many times we start by asking God for things we want without thanking Him, or praising Him, or asking Him to forgive us of the sins we know we have done. It is important that a Christian prays, because part of prayer is that we are talking to God. Part of prayer is when God touches our heart while we are praying, and He speaks to us. Not with a voice ... but touches our heart without words. Prayer should be a regular habit that you do, and that you do all day long , at any time.

Jesus prayed 32 times in the New Testament. If Jesus thought prayer was important when He was here on the earth, we should make it an important part of our lives too.

What is fasting? The simple meaning of fasting is that a person willingly does not eat, so they can spend time worshipping God, and praying deeply. It involved sacrificing time that you would normally eat, to pray and think about what God wants for you. Jesus said that when we face very difficult times in our lives, that we need to not only pray, but to also fast.

## 12. How to serve God fully – Spiritual gifts [<https://youtu.be/6adCO5itWKM>]

Now you are saved! You know for sure that you are going to Heaven. What should you do along the way to Heaven?

*Romans 12:1 – I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

God wants you to serve Him. There is good news. Because God wants you to serve Him, He has given each of His children gifts to help them to do what He wants them to do. We call these things, spiritual gifts. When you prayed to receive Jesus, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the One Who gives the gifts, and then helps you to use them. What are the spiritual gifts?

*I Corinthians 12:4-7 – Now there are diversities [separate and different] of gifts, but he same Spirit. And there are differences [separate and different] of administrations [ways to serve], but the same Lord. And there are diversities [separate and different] of operations [ways to do things], but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation [demonstration, or show] of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal [together- all].*

- Teaching – this gift is the desire to know the truth, and to present that truth in a clear way so others will understand. This person enjoys learning, reading, searching for the truth and then sharing it with others. Luke was a good example of this in the Bible – very detailed!
- Prophecy – this gift is the ability to see right and wrong very clearly. The person with this gift does not like dishonesty, and is able to know when a person is not being truthful. This is also a person who is very loyal to the people they believe in. Peter was a great example of this. He spoke first, and thought about it later many times.
- Serving – this is a gift that allows a person to see a need, and a desire to help meet that need. They love being with other people because it gives them more opportunity to serve them. Timothy served alongside of Paul, and is a great example of this gift.
- Giving – this is a gift that allows people to have wisdom in how to use money to earn more money. The people with this gift do not like others to show, or talk about the way they gave their money. They are wise with their money, and do not waste it. Matthew in the Bible was a tax collector, and was good at using money.
- Exhortation – this is a gift that is able to identify the strengths and weaknesses that other people have in the church. They have a desire to help others reach their potential. Paul was a person who started churches and used his gift of exhortation to help the church get started.
- Administration/Manager – this is a gift that is able to organize people to get a job done. They can plan, and put the right people in the right places to finish the work. Nehemiah had this gift, and used it to help a few people build the entire wall around Jerusalem.
- Mercy – this gift allows a person to see genuine love and the needs of others. The person with this gift sees the best in other people. John, who described himself as the disciple Jesus loved – had this gift, and wrote often about the topic of love

God wants every believer to serve Him, and use these gifts. We are to use these gifts, not for our own good, but for the good of the entire church. It would be great to study these gifts in more detail, and then learn how to use your gift to help other people.

### 13. Now that I'm saved, what should I do every day? [<https://youtu.be/9QjVRnHGm9I>]

It is important to start and keep up, good habits. Now that you have received Jesus, and you are saved, what are the basic things you should begin to do.

Start by reading your Bible every day. Silent Word Ministries has a paper that will help you to read through the New Testament in one year. Start there, and begin to build the discipline of reading your Bible every day.

Don't just read your Bible, study it, and then decide to obey what you read.

**Romans 12:2** – *And be not conformed [copy] to this world: but be ye transformed [changed from the inside to the outside] by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Make time to pray every day. Make a list of your family, friends, church leaders, people with health needs, and for your nation. We already spoke about how to pray, and the reason for the importance of prayer.

Be faithful to your local church. Go to church regularly. When you find a church with interpreters that are sacrificing for you, be faithful to go to church whenever they open the door. Be faithful Sunday morning, evening, and mid-week. You need the fellowship of other Christians, and they need the fellowship with you. Invest in those who are trying to help you understand the message. Encourage your interpreters, and encourage them to improve. We spoke about this earlier.

Tell the people you know who do not know Jesus, how they can be saved. Go back and study the section we spoke about earlier.



## Conclusion [<https://youtu.be/dh86bloAGW8>]

The reason we have offered this series is to help you start your walk with God in the right way. We trust that these lessons will be a blessing to you. Take what you have learned here, and share it with another Deaf friend of yours. God has given you this knowledge; now He wants you to share these things with others.

*II Timothy 2:1-3 – Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit [share] thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

You can get these lessons if you reach out to Jim Bracelin at: [bracelin@silentword.org](mailto:bracelin@silentword.org).

Last thought for you. Jesus gave His disciples this challenge, and I think it is a good challenge for us as we end this study.

*Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.— Matthew 16:24*