

Now That I've Become a Christian... Now What?

(What Should I Do?)

Stay Glued to the Lord

Acts 11:23 When he (Barnabas) came (to Antioch) and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with (remain true to) the Lord.

Thayer's definition of "continue":

- 1) to glue upon, **glue** to
- 2) to **join** one's self to closely, **cleave** to

Die to Self

Matthew 16:24-26 ...If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

2 Corinthians 5:15 and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

Renew the Mind

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

1 Corinthians 2:16 For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

Crave the Word

1 Peter 2:1-3 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

Devote Time to Prayer

Luke 11:1 Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

Continue Steadfastly, Assemble

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Definition of "steadfast": (Thayer)

- 1) to adhere to one, to be devoted or constant

- 2) to give **unremitting care** to a thing
- 3) to **continue** all the time in a place
- 4) to **persevere** and not to faint
- 5) to show one's self **courageous**

Become A Slave of Righteousness

Romans 6:17-18 But thanks be to God, that you who were **once slaves of sin** have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and having been set free from sin, **you became slaves of righteousness.**

Serve All You Can!

Hebrews 6:9-12 But, beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes, **things that accompany salvation**, though we speak in this manner. For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have **ministered to the saints**, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you **show the same diligence** to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you **do not become sluggish**, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Have Compassion on the Lost

Matthew 9:36-38 When he saw the crowds, **he had compassion for them**, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to **send out laborers into his harvest.**”

Acts 8:4 Therefore those who were scattered **went everywhere preaching the word.**

Keep an Eternal Perspective

1 Peter 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be **born again to a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **to an inheritance that is imperishable**, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

It's All About the People

Dee Bowman

11/24/13 – Choices

<http://www.southsideonline.org/articles/2013/11/24/its-all-about-the-people>

The Bible is a book about people. It uses the lives of people to teach and illustrate truth and righteousness, rebellion and impiety. People are the ultimate products of God's creation, the only part of His creation blessed with a sense of ought—the will to determine which way to go, what path to choose. He has set before man a blessing and a curse—a blessing if he seeks after the good, a curse if he seeks after his own desires in preference to what God has commanded (see **Deut. 11:26-28**). Jesus spoke of this choosing when He described the two ways a man may choose: a broad way that leads to destruction, or a strait way that leads to life eternal (**Matt. 7:13-14**). It's people who make these choices. They do it of their own free will.

God has given us great illustrations of faithfulness, couched in the character and personalities of men. For instance, have you ever considered:

The faithfulness of Abraham? The virtue of Joseph? The wisdom of Solomon? The meekness of Moses? The devotion of Paul?

Or all the others? On and on we could go. What about the heart of David, or the humility of John the Baptist, or the courage of Peter, or the love of the Apostle John, or the encouraging words of Barnabas? They were all people, people just like you and me. God has given us information about them so that we might learn how to please Him and what to do to avoid His displeasure. What a wonderful book, this Bible! What a people book! - *Dee Bowman*

2 Corinthians 5:14-17 (ESV) ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. ¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Colossians 3:12-15 (ESV) ¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love...” (Romans 12:10)

“...Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)

“Live in harmony with one another...” (Romans 12:16)

“...Love one another...” (Romans 13:8)

“...Stop passing judgment on one another.” (Romans 14:13)

“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you...” (Romans 15:7)

“...Instruct one another.” (Romans 15:14)

Acts 2:42-47 (ESV) ⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 4:32-33 (ESV) ³² Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. ³³ And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.