

## **NEW BEGINNINGS DEVOTIONAL:**

### **A Ten Day Devotional on the Basics of the Christian Faith**



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[www.passionaustralia.org](http://www.passionaustralia.org)

## Welcome!

Welcome to our free devotional “New Beginnings: A Ten Day Devotional on the Basics of the Christian Faith”.

This devotional booklet is designed for new Christians or those who are needing a refresher to re-ignite their faith in the foundational areas

This devotional looks at the topics of assurance of salvation, the Bible, Prayer, Church, Serving God, Evangelism, The Holy Spirit, Jesus and the future.

Each devotion has an introduction, 8-10 Bible memory verses and a prayer.

If you are wanting to go deeper, you can find an expanded version of this on my website at [PASSIONAustralia.org](http://PASSIONAustralia.org).

The expanded version is titled, New Beginnings: Setting a solid foundation for your new life in Christ”.

It is my hope and prayer that you are blessed by God as you do this devotional.

God’s Richest Blessings,



Pastor Dave Quinn

[PASSIONAustralia.org](http://PASSIONAustralia.org)

## **Day 1. Assurance - Being assured of your salvation**

### **What is salvation?**

When the Bible talks about salvation it touches on two main areas.

1. Being rescued from the penalty of sin - which means death and eternal separation from God.
2. Being in right relationship with God - both now in this life and for all eternity.

In the Bible we see that when Jesus came and died on the cross, He came to pay the price for our sin. He took the punishment that was rightfully ours. His death opened the way for us to be forgiven of our sin and to be brought back into a right relationship with God. In a future tense it means that those who put their faith and trust in Jesus will spend eternity with God.

When we ask Jesus Christ into our lives and we become a Christian, it is a start of a whole new journey of faith and life. The Bible tells us the old life is gone and the new life has come (2 Corinthians 5:17).

However, during our first few months of being a Christian it is quite normal to have periods of doubt about God or if we are really saved. In these times it is very important to seek reassurance from the Bible.

### **Bible Verses on salvation**

John 3:16 - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 1:12 - Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

1 John 5:13 - I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Romans 10:13 - Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Hebrews 9:28 - Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast.

Titus 3:5 - He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, I pray that You will assure me of my salvation. Help me to remember that I am saved because of what Jesus has done for me. I pray that when I have doubts about Your existence or my salvation that I will read the Bible and find assurance in Your Word. I ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Day 2. The Bible – God’s Word to all mankind.**

Christians see the Bible as different from every other book because they believe that its writers were ‘inspired’ by God when writing it (2 Timothy 3:16).

The Bible is not just one book, but instead a collection of sixty-six books which consists of 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. These books were written by 40 people over a 1600-year period from 1500 BC to 100 AD.

For Christians, the Bible is God’s handbook for life. When we read the Bible it teaches us about God, about this world and about God’s great love for all mankind. We also learn how to live our lives and how we should relate to each other.

It is important for us as Christians to read the Bible as it helps us to line our thinking up with God’s thinking and to live the life God wants us to live. It also helps to grow strong in our faith and belief in God.

### **Bible verses on the Bible**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Psalms 119:11 - I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Psalms 1:2-3 - Blessed is the man...[when] his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

James 1:22-24 - Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

Psalms 119:165 - Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.

Psalms 119:130 - The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

Psalms 119:9 - How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.

### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, Please help me to read the Bible every day. I pray that You will teach me all about You, about Your great love for me and how I should live my life. Please give me a real love for Your Word and a desire to study it and apply it to my life. I ask this in Jesus name, Amen.

### **Day 3. Prayer – connecting with God**

Prayer is one of the key aspects of the Christian life. Prayer helps us to communicate with God and develop our relationship with Him. As we pray we bring our prayer requests to God and we ask Him to help us in the things we do.

We also ask God to bless those around us or we might ask God for wisdom or direction. Before long you will see the difference, prayer makes in your life and in the lives of those around you.

Remember to keep your prayers simple, just like you are talking to a respected friend. You don't have to use big words to get God's attention. He is always ready to listen and hear your requests.

As you pray remember to be open to God, so He can speak to you or prompt you to do something. Like all good communication, prayer is a two-way thing.

#### **Bible verses on Prayer**

Philippians 4:6-7 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 5:7 - Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Jeremiah 29:11-12 - For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

John 14:13 – And I will do whatever you ask in my name [Jesus], so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.

James 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

1 John 5:14-15 - This is the confidence we have in approaching God: 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 what we asked of him.

Mark 11:24 - Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

#### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, I thank You that love me and are concerned for me. Thank You that I can bring all of my prayers and petitions to You. I thank You that You always hear and answer my prayers. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Day 4. Church – meeting with other Christians**

The word church refers to a gathering or assembly of people. In the Bible the word has two meanings - it refers to the local groups of Christian believers and also all believers worldwide who follow Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

God set up church, so we could have be a part of a caring community, to have a support network and so we grow in our faith together. We can also learn more about the Bible, prayer, baptism, serving God and living in community. It is important for all Christians to meet together regularly as this helps to encourage each other as we wait for Jesus to return.

Rick Warren in his book a Purpose Driven Life said this about church and being a part of the church. “You are called to belong, not just believe. Even in the perfect, sinless environment of [the Garden of] Eden, God said, 'It is not good for man to be alone'. We are created for community, fashioned for fellowship, and formed for a family, and none of us can fulfil God's purposes alone” (page 130).

### **Bible verses on Church and meeting together**

Acts 2:42 - They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Hebrews 10:24 - And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Hebrews 10:25 - Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

John 13:34-35 – Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Matthew 18:20 - For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Romans 12:4-5 - Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Galatians 6:10 - Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Colossians 1:17-18 - He [Jesus Christ] is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the first-born from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, I pray that You will help me find a church where I can meet with other Christians each week. I pray I can find a place where I can serve You, where I can make friends and a place where I can grow in my faith and trust in You. I ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Day 5. Servant-hood - Serving God with your gifts**

As Christians it is important for us to see ourselves as God's servants. A servant is a person who works for the comfort or protection of others. Jesus described Himself as a servant. He instructed His followers to be servants of each other rather than trying to have authority over each other.

The Bible says each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others. That means if we are good at something we should think of ways to use that gift to help others and make their lives better.

Mother Teresa said this about serving God - "I see Jesus in every human being. I say to myself, this is hungry Jesus, I must feed him. This is sick Jesus. This one has leprosy or gangrene; I must wash him and tend to him. I serve because I love Jesus."

### **Bible verses on Serving**

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

2 Corinthians 9:7 - Each man [or woman] should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Mark 10:43-44 - Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.

Romans 12:4-5 - Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

1 Peter 4:10 - Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

Galatians 6:10 - Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Philippians 2:6-7 - [Jesus] Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, I pray that You will help me to serve You everyday. I pray that all I do and all I say will bring honour and glory to You. I pray that You will help me to use my gifts for the good of those around me. I ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Day 6. Evangelism - Sharing your faith with others**

Sharing your faith with others is called Evangelism. Evangelism is the act of telling the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others.

For a Christian sharing our faith with others is very important. God wants us to be His witnesses and to tell people about His great love for them. In the Bible it tells us that God has given us the task of helping other people to know Him.

The famous evangelist Billy Graham once said this about the task of evangelism. "My one purpose in life is to help people find a personal relationship with God, which, I believe, comes through knowing Christ."

### **Bible verses on sharing your faith**

Matthew 28:18-20 - Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

1 Peter 3:15 - But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

Romans 10:13-14 - "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"

Matthew 9:37-38 - Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Acts 4:20 - For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 - All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, please help me to share my faith with my family, friends and neighbours. I pray that when the opportunity comes that You will give me the courage, power and right words to say. I ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

## **Day 7. The Holy Spirit – Our helper in this life**

We see in the Bible that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. When talking about the Holy Spirit it is important to realise that the Holy Spirit is a person just like the Father and the Son.

The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit is our helper as Christians. He helps us to live the Christian life effectively and helps us to become more like Christ in the way we think and live. We also read in the Bible that the Holy Spirit is our comforter, source of strength, and teacher too.

Paul Little in his book “Know What You Believe” says this on page 78 about the Holy Spirit. “To be filled with the Spirit means we allow Him to occupy, guide, and control every area of our lives.

His power can then work through us, making us effectively fruitful for God and flooding our hearts with His joy.”

### **Bible verses on the Holy Spirit**

Romans 8:11 - And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

John 14:26 - But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Acts 9:31 - Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Romans 8:26 - In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

1 Corinthians 3:16 - Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

Romans 8:14 - Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, I thank You that You have given us the Holy Spirit to help, teach, guide, encourage and strengthen us. I pray that the Holy Spirit will work in my life to produce good fruit and He will help me to live for You each and every day. I ask this in Jesus' name, Amen

## **Day 8. Christology - Having a right view of Jesus Christ**

The word Christology means the "study of Christ". It includes learning about Him and His works - what He has done, is doing and what He will do in the future. One very important part of living the Christian life is having a right view and belief about Jesus Christ. It is vitally important to understand that He is more than just a historical character who was a good person, a good teacher or the leader of an ancient religion.

We need to understand that Jesus as God is all powerful, all knowing and all present. He has always existed and was involved in the creation of the world. It is also important to understand that Jesus came to live amongst us, that He died on the cross for our sin and purchased our salvation. He then returned to heaven to be with the Father.

When we place our faith in Jesus Christ, He becomes not only our Saviour but also our Sovereign Lord and Master. We are under new ownership. We can only enjoy our new life in Christ as we daily seek His will and follow Him in obedience.

### **Bible verses on Jesus Christ**

Isaiah 9:6 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

John 16:28 - I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.

Mark 2:10 - But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.

John 4:25-26 - The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

John 10:32 - I have shown you many great miracles from the Father.

Luke 1:35 - The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

John 1:12 - Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

John 10:28 - I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

John 1:1-3 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, I pray that I will have a right understanding of who Jesus is. Help me to always remember that He is my Lord, Saviour and King. I pray that I will never forget that He died on the cross for my sin and that He is the only way to salvation. I ask this in Jesus' name, Amen

## **Day 9. Self Esteem - Understanding who we are in Christ**

The Bible says in Romans 12:3 says, “Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.”

This verse reminds of the importance of having a right view of ourselves. It says we should think of our self with sober judgement. This means to think correctly about ourselves. Some people think too highly of themselves, while others have a too low opinion. The best way to think right about ourselves is by seeing who God says we are in the Bible.

As Christians, I believe at times we need to be reminded of who God says we are. In this study we will look at 8 Scriptures that help us see ourselves through God’s eyes.

### **Bible Verses on who you are in Christ**

Genesis 1:27 - So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Ephesians 1:4 - For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love, He predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

John 1:12 - Yet to all who received him [Jesus], to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

Romans 8:11 - And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

Ephesians 2:4-6 - But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus.

Psalms 139:13 - For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

1 John 4:9-10 - This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, I thank You that You created me in Your image. Help me to understand how much You love me and that You made me to do good works before You created the world. Help me to see myself through Your eyes. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

## **Day 10. The Future – What does God want me to do now?**

Now you are coming to the end of this devotional you might be wondering what next? What does God want me to do with the rest of my life? These are great questions.

Many Christians wonder what God wants them to do with their lives. While God does not give us all an individual road map for us to follow in the Bible, He does give us a number of general principles that He has given to His people in a few places.

Thomas Merton the Catholic Monk said this about finding God's will, "For each one of us, there is only one thing necessary: to fulfil our own destiny, according to God's will, to be what God wants us to be."

In this final devotion we will look at a number of verses to see what the Bible says concerning God's will for our lives. They give us general principles to follow. This combined with daily prayer, Bible reading and walking closely with Jesus will help us to know day by day what Jesus wants us to do.

### **Bible verses on God's will**

Colossians 3:1-2 - Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Luke 10:27 - He [Jesus] answered: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"

Colossians 3:12 - Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Micah 6:8 - He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

2 Peter 3:18 - But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

Psalms 37:4 - Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, I thank You that the Bible gives us information about how you want us to live our lives. I pray that You will help me to love and trust you with all of my heart. I pray that as I go about my daily life that You will help me to keep my heart and mind focussed on heavenly things and that I will always look to You for guidance in all I do. In Jesus' name, Amen.