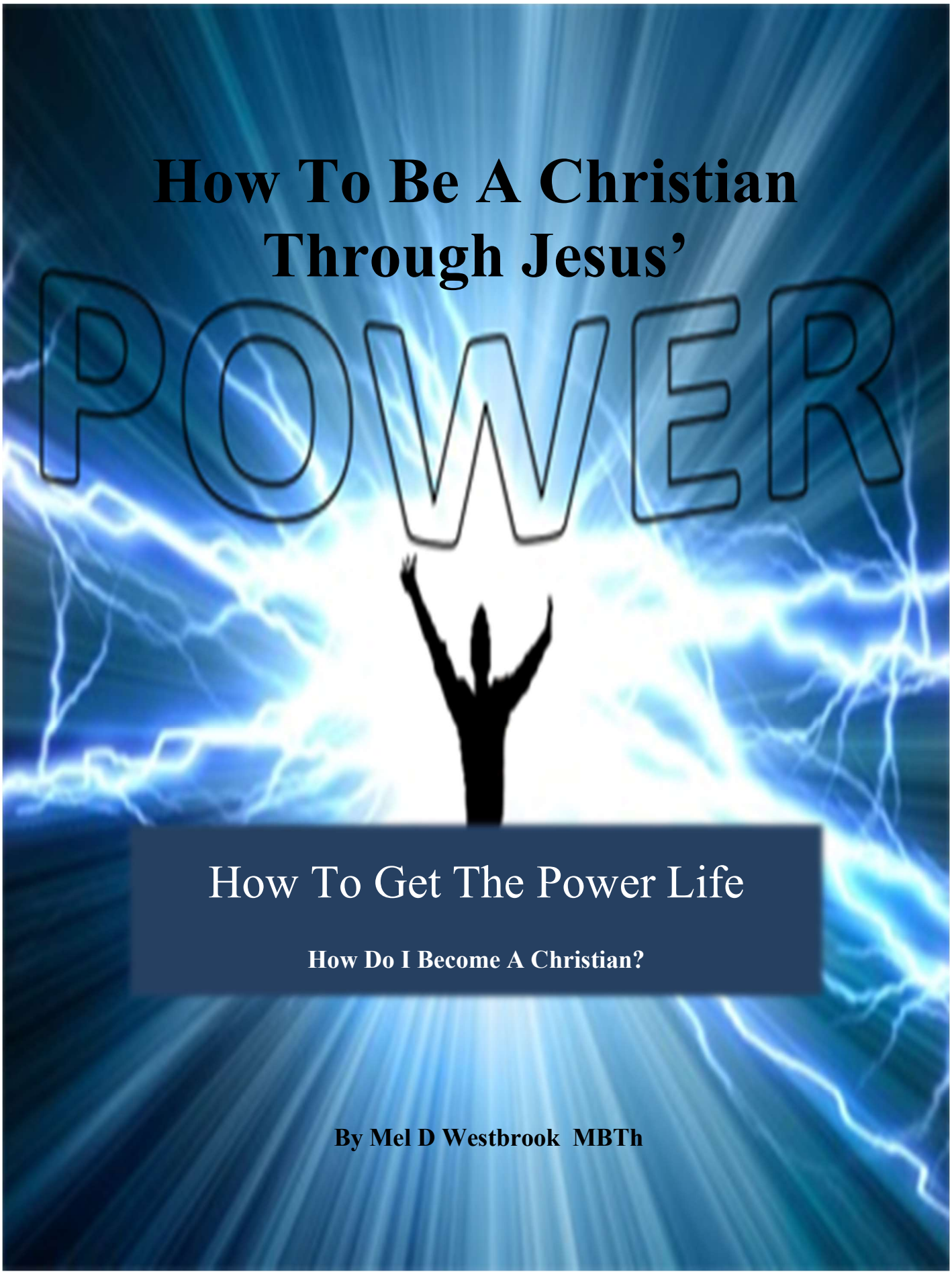
How To Be A Christian Through Jesus'



How To Get The Power Life

How Do I Become A Christian?

By Mel D Westbrook MBTh

Welcome To "Instruction For The Power Life"

Power To Be Eloquent
1 Cor 13:1 (NIV) If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. Christianity isn't about being able to convince people of your point of view. The power to manipulate people is satanic. It is God's will that you and everyone else have a God-given free will. You are looking at the power to help people see how great Jesus is and how great Christianity is.

Power To Be Wise
1 Cor 13:2 (NIV) If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. Christianity isn't about the power to impress people with your power. Prophecy is the power to know things about people that you couldn't possibly know. But, Jesus would give you that information so you could help them be healed rather than be impressed. Faith is the channel through which God's power flows. But, Jesus wants you to yield to His power so you can bring healing, blessings, and miracles into the lives of hurting people.

Power To Make Sacrifices
1 Cor 13:3 (NIV) If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. This is a hard one to grasp! This looks so loving and serving; but, it is all done just to impress people with how loving and self-sacrificing you are. Jesus is giving you the power to really care about hurting people. It is the power to feel the suffering, confusion, desperation, and pain others are going through. It is the power to love them with a compassion that leads them into getting those things Jesus has for them.

Power To Win
Eph 6:10 (NIV) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Christianity is about you learning how to win in life and *then* take every victory and breakthrough you get and share the procedures with others. Jesus will be teaching you power-techniques that are sharable with all your loved ones and friends. You will be getting power-truths that set you free and can be taught to others so they can know how to be free. Christianity is all about power; but, it is all about love-power that heals and blesses you and as many as will be open to Jesus.

Power Of Protection
Eph 6:11 (NIV) Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. Christianity is you experiencing Jesus' love and protection over your life. He surrounds you with Himself as your **full armor of God.** Then He helps you stand in front of the new and untrained Christians, so you can protect them while they learn how to get the power of protection on themselves. You will have the power to help them fight their battles. You will be able to keep them on tract with the truths of the Bible. You will help them see traps of their body, the world, and the devil. You and they will experience great protective power.

Going From Power Introduction To Power Instruction
Jesus wants to teach you how to yield to His *power*. In **"The Power Studies"** books, Jesus exposes you to His power through the **"Introduction Into The Power"** book. That is in the hope that you will be convinced that He and His power are what you need. He deals with **"Why Become A Christian?"**, **"How Would I Become A Christian?"**, and **"How Do I Become A Christian Now?"** Now that you are a Christian, you are ready to start living on the basis of Jesus' power.

In this study and prayer book, Jesus will help you look at four issues. First, He will help you learn the steps into *getting* His power flowing in and through your life. In the second issue, He will deal with those things that have been resisting you from being successful in life by *keeping* that power flowing. In the third one, He will help you *live* that power by letting Him live His life through you. And, in the fourth one, He will show you how, through *maturing* you will be able to experience miracles, supernatural manifestations, and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Instructions For The Power-Life
Here are the names of the four studies: The first one is, **"How Do I *Get* The Power Life?"** The second one is, **"How Do I *Keep* The Power Life?"** The third one is, **"How Do I *Live* The Power Life?"** and the fourth one is, **"How Do I *Mature* In The Power Life?"** Through these four subjects, Jesus will give you the step-by-step instructions from the Bible for *how* to *get, keep, live,* and *mature* in His power-life.

Truth Produces Results
There are a lot of "theories" about how to get, keep, live, and mature in the power-life. The important thing isn't a matter of thinking or believing that you have taken the right steps, the important issue is *making sure* you *have* taken the right steps. One of the main things about going with Jesus and His Bible is, His principles, truths, and words bring results.

If you aren't getting the results you should be getting, then you may need to allow Jesus to use these studies to help you make sure you have been born again; you need Him to help you make sure you are following a day-by-day walk with Him; and, you need Him to help you make sure you are working on your future with Him. If you find yourself struggling with having the power to *do* what you know you should be doing, then it is important to make sure that Jesus' Biblical steps have been fulfilled. Take a quick look at Jesus' purpose for these four courses.

Jesus' Four Power-Life Instruction Studies

1. "How Do I Get The Power Life?"

Taking Steps Into An Experience

John 3:3 (NIV) In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." This is a very important study; Jesus not only uses it to deal with the instructions for *how* to get His power in your life, He uses it to take you step by step into actually *getting* that power. Many people have been given training on Christianity; but, they haven't been given the steps into *experiencing* a new *birth* into salvation that produces Christianity. We can all learn how to "act" like a Christian; we can even learn how to talk "like" a Christian; but, acting like and talking like a Christian doesn't make us a Christian; only Jesus and His power can do that.

It Happens At An Exact Moment

John 3:5-6 (NIV) Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. Jesus, in the first two sections of the **"Introduction Into The Power"** book, introduced you into information "about" Christianity; that made you knowledgeable and informed; but, it didn't make you transformed. You met Nicodemus, as Jesus explained being born again in the **"Why Become A Christian?"** section. Nicodemus was *very* knowledgeable *about* God and the things of God; but, Jesus knew he had not yet been *born* again.

The thing everyone must realize is, only those who have taken the steps with Jesus into the new birth *experience*, get born into God's family, get the new life, and get Jesus' power to live life. Being born again is an experience that Jesus gives; it happens in a moment of time, *not* over a long period of training; it is an actual, supernatural, spiritual *birth*. It's like a human birth.

GETTING An Actual Spiritual Birth

Rom 8:15 (NIV) For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by Him we cry, "Abba, Father." Just like there is a moment when a baby is born into this world, there is an exact second when a person is *born again* into the family of God. Jesus will use this study to take you right up to and through the *moment* when you were *born* as a child in the family of God. If you have never experienced a moment where Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, told you that you *are* a child of God, then you need to take a look at this study.

Confirmation Of A Successful Birth

Rom 8:16 (NIV) The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. This is the same Holy Spirit that spoke to your conscience for most of your life. He is now also speaking to your spirit in Spirit-to-spirit communication. He is helping you *know* your prayers for salvation worked. He is telling you that you *are* God's child, a member of His family, and a citizen of His eternal Kingdom. Listen carefully to His assurances in your heart. They help you *feel* His confirmation that Jesus *did* do what He said He would do, when you prayed His prayer.

2. "How Do I Keep The Power Life?"

Power Resistors

Gal 5:19-21 (NIV) The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery (excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures); idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that <u>those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God</u>.

Just like there are diseases and dangers that try to kill you as a human, there are spiritual diseases and dangers that try to destroy the power Jesus gave you when you were born again. There are three major areas where you can be attacked and damaged in your power source. If you react in the wrong way to these attacks, it will hurt you. However, Jesus wants to give you one reaction to all the events of life; He and it will help you *keep* the power flowing in and through you.

Power Reactions

2 Tim 2:15 (AKJV) Study to show yourself approved to God, <u>a workman that needs not to be ashamed</u>, rightly dividing the word of truth. Jesus will be using this study to help you be aware of *all* the pitfalls and traps that *will* come your way. And, He will teach you how to have the right power-reaction to them. If you know *ahead of time* exactly what to expect from life, then you can be ready to win over those issues. The three possible "reactions" Jesus will be showing you in this study have to do with *understanding*, *receptivity*, and *distraction*. You need to know what to do when these three issues come your way.

After you have adequate time to experience what being born again can do for you, you can then decide if you are willing to be *receptive* spending eternity with Him. You have a God-given free will that allows you to decide whether you will allow your body's cravings, the world's enticements, or Satan's temptations to *distract* you and you not *keep* this power through Jesus' salvation.

Power Rejection

2 Tim 3:16-17 (NIV) 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.

Three areas of pressure will be coming against you from your body's drives, the world's advertisements and social pressure, and the devil's temptations. They will be pressures, temptations and invitations to "trade" the power you have received through Jesus' salvation. You will be tempted to go back to things of sin in this world. These pressures, invitations, and temptations will be traps that pull you back into your old life of powerlessness. Jesus will help you be able to resist these temptations and *react* by using His *fourth reaction*. He will help you win by letting you *know* what the Bible says, *understand* His principles, be *wise* through His thoughts in your mind, and *powerful* through Him. He will teach you about *three reactions* that will cheat you out of His provisions.

Power Success
Gal 5:22-23 (NIV) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. <u>Against such things there is no law</u>.

The *fourth reaction*, Jesus will teach you, is a process of defeating your old life, the world, and the devil. Through *understanding* the Bible and its principles, being *receptive* to a whole new and powerful way of life, and not allowing your old life, the world, and the devil to *distract* you. You will be empowered to keep from being lured back into slavery to extreme pleasure, addictions, habits, and lifestyles that hurt you and those around you. And, not only that, you will discover a power-life that offers happiness, joy, and excitement. Jesus will teach you how to have money, possessions, positions, popularity, prestige, power, pleasure, and accomplishments without using the world and the devil's systems.

Jesus is going to teach you how to be *very* successful in life without having to use sinful, wrong, bad, or evil ways of treating yourself or others. He will teach you how to develop win/win situations for everyone involved with you. His principles develop friendships that last.

3. "How Do I Live The Power Life?"

Taking Advantage Of Learning
Mat 28:19-20 (NIV) 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, <u>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you</u>. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." A lot of what we do is study to *learn* things; and, that is important. But, stopping at getting information just so you can know and repeat it isn't Jesus' plan for your life. He wants you to learn all about what is available to you and then for you to learn how to use it to empower your life. Jesus wants to use this study to assist you in *living* the power-life.

Following The Instructions
Luke 6:46-48 (NIV) Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? I will show you what he is like who comes to Me and hears My words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.

Getting the power-life isn't the same as using it; fact is, you already have Jesus' power. But, that doesn't mean you know how to put it into practice. You can even do what it takes to *keep* the power and still not use it. What would cause you to *get* and *keep* the power of being born again through salvation and not use it? One reason would be that you lack the knowledge of how to use it.

Suppose you buy a device that requires a lot of instructions for how to set it up for use. If you don't read the instructions, you will have to use trial-and-error methods to see if you can get it to work. Jesus will teach you how to start using and living the power-life without the disappointment and stress of trying and failing.

Having Power To Resist Temptation

James 4:7 (NIV) Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. One of the main tricks of the world and the devil is to bait or lure you into coming back into their control. They use types of pleasure that have hooks in them that dishonor your God-given free will. The hook consists of such extreme pleasure that you find yourself feeling compelled to experience it as much as is possible. Before you know it, you are dominated by it. It starts to do damage to you and those around you. It erodes your attitudes and character, your relationships, your emotions, your finances, your physical condition, and your spiritual relationship with Jesus.

Having Power To Yield To Jesus

Rev 3:20 (NIV) Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me. Jesus doesn't offer anything that drives you, lures you, baits you, addicts you, or dishonors your God-given free will. He explains what His relationship with you would be like, helps you understand what He is offering and providing, and then lets you try it out. If at any time *you want* to discontinue the relationship, there is no contract, no restraints, no overwhelming pleasures, and no power exerted on you that keeps you from going back to the world; there is extreme freedom in Jesus. In this study, Jesus will help you live a life of complete freedom.

4. "How Do I Mature In The Power Life?"

Taking Advantage Of Jesus' Life

Phil 3:13-14 (NIV) Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Living the same way, day after day, is taking advantage of Jesus' power-life; but, it isn't growing and maturing in it. If you get it, keep it, live it, and then stop there, you will have freedom from the things the devil and the world are trying to trap you in; BUT, you won't get the benefits of what Jesus wants you to have. Freedom from bad things is wonderful; but, freedom to advance into the blessings, miracles, and gifts of God will still be missing. Letting Jesus remove all those wrong, bad, and evil things that have been hurting you is wonderful. But, letting Jesus fill you with right, good, and righteous things is awesome!

Growing Up

Eph 4:14 (NIV) Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. In Christianity, there are people who can teach you all about many things in the Bible. But, if you were to go be around them for a while, you will soon see they don't live a lot of those things they teach. Christianity isn't a bunch of rituals, exercises, philosophies, and cliches; it is life transforming.

Jesus wants to work on your attitudes and character. He wants to help you with your relationships with yourself, other people, and Him. Then, as you get breakthroughs in various spiritual issues, He wants you to share those breakthroughs with those around you. He wants to *give* you blessings; and, He wants you to *be* a blessing to others. Plus, He wants you to be able to lead others into receiving blessings directly from Him.

Moving Into The Blessings

Gal 2:20 (NIV) I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, <u>I live by faith in the Son of God</u>, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Jesus has so much more to offer you than just setting you free from the pain, the struggles, the addictions, and the temptations. He has blessings, miracles, supernatural manifestations, and spiritual gifts. As He works on your attitudes and character, you become much more trustworthy with the great things of God. You learn that the power and the abilities of God remain in Jesus. Rather than you just trying to become a better Christian, you learn how to become a yielded Christian. You start allowing Jesus to live His life through you. You allow Him to flow in you and through you to others.

Chapter One
How Does Knowing What I Want Help?

Week One Day One

It's All About Me

I Know What I Want

Mark 12:30-31 (NIV) 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these. The truth is, we all want to live in a place where we can have peace and safety. We are all looking for a place where we can be free from pain and damage caused by such things as problems with life. We want to have a life that experiences pleasure and happiness without the fear of experiencing pain and death. The issue we face is, what is it going to take to get into such a place?

Jesus, I want to be able to be able to **love** my **neighbor as** myself. I want to be able to create win/win situations for myself and those around me. Help me give up selfishness and pride. Help me become a person who is able to identify with how others feel. Let my thoughts, feelings, word, and deeds be such that people are able to enjoy the way I treat them. Make me real, sincere, honest, fair, and thoughtful. Let Your power enter into me so I can live like this.

I Know What It Takes To Get What I Want

Mat 7:12 (NIV) So in everything, do to others <u>what you would have them do to you</u>, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. Some people only care about how they are being treated. They don't want to feel the needs and desires of others. They want peace and happiness in their lives but don't care about other's peace and happiness. Some are perfectly satisfied with happiness that comes through other's sacrifices and sometimes even through other's suffering and pain. As long as they can win, it doesn't bother them that others had to lose or suffer.

Jesus, help me not be oblivious of what others are going through. Get me start finding out how they are doing. Help me get to know people. Show me how to ask them questions that reveal their likes, dislikes, goals, and plans. Help me take an interest in them rather than spending all my time thinking or talking about myself. Show me how to identify with other's interests, concerns, skills, and accomplishments. Help me remember these things about them.

Now That I Know

So in everything, do to others <u>what you would have them do to you</u>: Jesus, now that I am clear on what I want done to me, help me see that this is how I can measure how I am doing with others. Help me check my own heart and see if this is how I want to be treated. Help me be totally honest with myself and also let You check my heart. Give me the ability to see how I want to be treated **in everything.** Empower me to be completely honest about what I am doing to others. Give me Your power to keep this rule in mind.

It's All About We

God Doesn't Agree With World Philosophy

Luke 6:38 (NIV) Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. You are now entering into Jesus' world in the spirit realm. This is a principle that is not taught in the world. But, it is a very powerful principle in Christianity.

Give, and it will be given to you: God doesn't have the opinion that it is all about us. He knows what it is going to take for you to be free from pain caused by struggles with life. And, He knows how to bring complete happiness and joy to you and those around you. But, it comes through Him when you are only involved in win/win situations for all involved.

Jesus, I can see that it is going to take Your special power to help me live the Christian life. I need You to help me see how to apply this principle and these other Biblical principles to my and other people's lives. Help me give up all my world training and embrace Your way of helping me succeed in life. Help me start small and gradually develop this giving principle.

God Doesn't Care About What I Deserve

A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap: God is all about grace (giving people a chance to get His blessings and Kingdom even though they didn't do anything to earn it) and mercy (forgiving people for things that they deserve to be punished for). That means you are going to be able to receive healing from the problems caused by life even though you can't do anything to earn or deserve it. It also means that God is going to set you free from the mistakes you have made that caused the damage and pain in your heart and life.

Jesus, help me see that as You start changing my heart, I need to share my blessings and breakthroughs with others. As I share what You give me, You are healing me, blessing me, and changing me. The more I share everything You do for me, **a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into** my **lap.** Teach me these spiritual principles, so I can see what kind of power You are causing me to experience.

God Cares About Gifts

For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you: Even though you have made some really bad mistakes, and even though you deserve what has happened to you, God is setting you free (grace). And, He is doing it without you having to suffer from any punishment (mercy). He has made it as if you didn't do all those things to yourself and others (forgiveness).

Jesus, I feel I deserve some kind of punishment, I feel I need to learn how to forgive myself, and I feel I will never be able to undo all the wrong, bad, and evil things I have done. But help me see that God still gave *me* His gifts. Show me that God's grace (a gift I didn't deserve) was applied to my life, because God is all about gifts. Now, help me start getting involved in giving gifts to others. Help me start treating people based on grace and mercy. Empower me to handle my relationships with the kind of treatment God has given me.

Chapter Two
What Does Christianity Require That I Give Up?

Week One Day Two

What Kind Of A Person Am I Willing To Be?

This Must Be Your Sincere Desire

Mat 7:11 (NIV) If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts <u>to those who ask Him</u>! As you start on your journey after being born again into God's family, and as you head toward living as a citizen in God's Kingdom, and as you start being set free from the difficulties of life, you need to decide what kind of a person you are willing to become. God is all about freedom of choice. He wants to empower you to change; He wants to empower you to help others; He wants to bless you so you can share your blessings with others. But, you must chose to do so every step of the way. Don't forget that Jesus only does what you allow Him to do.

Jesus, help me see that You want to give me all kinds of manifestations of power. You want to empower me to open my heart to Your great provisions. Then You want to empower me to share them with others. Then You want to bless me supernaturally with many more blessings in response to my giving to others. Help me see that the reason You have me praying all these prayers is because this is the only way You will give me these things. I must invite You in.

You Must KNOW What You Are Joining

1 Pet 2:2-3 (NIV) Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, <u>now that you have tasted that the Lord is good</u>. As you try Christianity out, if you don't want something God has to offer, God gives you the right to reject it. But, keep in mind that you can't *know* what God is offering you, if you don't try it out. So, as God allows you to "taste" His provisions, don't be careless with rejecting various things He offers you. In other words, allow God to give you a "taste" of all He is offering you.

Jesus, help me experience the greatness of God; then after I have done that, help me see that I will be able to make a *knowledgeable* decision as to whether or not I want to continue in it. I will *know* whether or not I want to give my life over to His way of living. But, if I fail to open my heart, mind, and life to Him, I won't get the full picture. If I run into something that I don't think I will like, help me come to You for guidance with my decision.

You Only Get One Chance To Try It Out

Heb 6:4-6 (NIV) It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, <u>because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting Him to public disgrace</u>.

You only get one shot at testing God's way, His truth, and His life. He doesn't allow you to quit trying it out and then come back. So, it is *very* important that you give it an honest and complete test *before* you make any *final* decision to quit. But, He won't require you to make a final decision until you know *for sure* whether or not you like His plan. For as long as you are willing to keep giving it a chance to prove to you how great God is, He will let you keep trying it out.

Jesus, help me take this relationship with God seriously. Help me see that I am not doing God any favors. He wants me to take advantage of all His provisions because He loves me. But, make it clear to me that He is doing all the favors. Help me stay in a humble, appreciative, and respectful attitude. Help me understand that He is God! He doesn't have to give me this opportunity. Open my eyes and help me see how wonderful this chance is.

Freedom From Hurting Other People

You Must BE WILLING To Give Some Things Up

In the process of gaining all the benefits that God has to offer, there are some things you are going to have to be *willing* to give up. God requires that everyone *be willing* to give up things that hurt people. If you don't feel like you are doing something that hurts others but God does, you must *be willing* to give it up anyway. You must trust that God knows what is best for everyone involved.

Jesus, I have lived most of my life believing that I know what is best for me. When I face accepting something that is contrary to what I believe, it takes a special power to help me make the right decision. Let Your power of respect, wisdom, and humility help me realize that God knows everything, will only give me good, loves me more than I love myself, and is also taking other people into consideration. Help me yield to my heavenly Father's decisions.

You MUST NOT Try To Change Yourself

You won't have to force yourself to give up those things God is against. It is vital for you to learn one important rule: Christianity isn't about what you can do for God, it is all about what God can do for you. All *you* have to do is *be willing* to give them up. God will help you make the necessary changes through His *power*; but, He will *never* force you to change. He will simply continue to talk to you and try to convince you that you need to *let* Him set you free from them.

Jesus, help me see that just because something is good for me doesn't necessarily mean it is good for those around me. Help me understand that God is also providing win/win situations for all involved. Help me realize that I don't see all those things God is taking into consideration. Help me trust Him to make the final decision in each case.

You must LET Jesus Change You

Jesus, teach me that once I decide to *be willing* to give certain things up, You will show me how to yield to Your power and be set free from bad attitudes and deeds. Show me that these attitudes and deeds are the main cause of my problems with my life. This is something I would like to know more about. Lead me into training on how to experience more of Your power in the issues and aspects of my life.

Chapter Three
Was I Blind?

Week One Day Three

Taking Advantage Of Your Spiritual Comprehension

Using A Parable To Teach You

1 Cor 2:14 (NIV) The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, <u>because they are spiritually discerned</u>.

Salvation empowered you to understand spiritual principles. So, Jesus wants to teach you by using a "field planting" parable or spiritual illustration. <u>A parable is a spiritual illustration using earthly events</u>. This parable illustrates the process of having "seeds" of spiritual truth "planted" in your life. It is designed to help you understand what happened to you and what can happen next.

Jesus, help me take full advantage of my new spiritual comprehension. Help me cooperate with You trying to prepare me for some challenges I can face. Help me see how great salvation and Christianity are. Protect me from being contaminated or sabotaged by heart conditions that keep me from experiencing all You have to offer.

Jesus' Message Was Like A Seed

Mat 13:3 (NIV) Then He told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed…." See if you can picture Jesus' story. It's about a guy who takes a bag of seeds, sticks his hand into the bag, pulls out a handful of seeds, and throws them all over the ground. Can you see it? This planting method is called broadcasting. With this method, it is impossible to control where the seeds will land. Since the seeds aren't being individually planted in a specific spot, they tend to land on hard ground, rocky ground, ground with weeds, and good ground.

Jesus, I have the "seed" of Your good news message in my heart. As You explain to me what kind of heart condition I may have, help me recognize it and let You fix it. Help me understand what each of these heart conditions look like, so I can reject it and give You permission to remove any problems that would keep me from cooperating with You.

Jesus Wants To Help You See

In this parable, the seeds landed on four soil conditions. Three of them were bad soil conditions and only one was a good soil condition. Some seeds landed on the path around the field where all the people walk. Some seeds landed on rocks with a thin layer of dirt on them. Some seeds landed on soil where there were a lot of weeds growing. And, some seeds landed on soil that was plowed, fertilized, moist, and ready for planting. But, unlike this soil, you have a God-given free will. You can insist on keeping hardness, rocks, and weeds. Or, you can allow Jesus to change the condition of your heart. You aren't stuck with whatever your heart condition is now.

Jesus, help me see what would cause me to try Christianity out and then reject it. Help me not be controlled by outside influences. Help me not let people and things push me into making decisions that would hurt me and my future. Help me have an open and receptive heart to what You are trying to show me about You and this Christian experience.

Learning Spiritual Principles

Jesus gave you the truth about life and eternity (planted seeds). Now, you are deciding what you are going to do with that experience (soil condition). People who experience the good new message and salvation have four types of reactions (four types of soil condition). Once you see which reaction category you are located in, you will better understand what is causing your issues with Jesus and His Christianity. It is important that nothing trick or force you out of Christianity.

Helping You Stay In Control Of Your Life

What Jesus is doing is, He is giving you some diagnostic tools so you can understand some outside forces that will try to push you out of Christianity. They won't be because Christianity isn't wonderful; they will just be in competition with it. It won't be you making a knowledgeable decision of what *you* want to do, it will be pressures from your body, the world, and the devil.

Seeing The Big Picture

Mat 13:3-9 (NIV) Then He [Jesus] told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed: This is a great way of helping you see what is going on in your life. It gives you a visual example that opens your eyes to things going on in the spirit realm. Jesus is helping you start to see things that were invisible to you before. It has been like the wind blowing a sail boat that, if not steered, will end up on the rocks.

Jesus, obviously I have been spiritually blind. My body, people, circumstances, and Satan have been having a field day with me. Influences have been coming my way and blindsiding me. I haven't had the foresight to see the long-term effects that You are now opening my spiritual eyes to. You know that things are going to be coming my way. And, You are allowing me to see what they are so I can make my own decision as to what I want to do about them. Thank You!

Getting Inside Information

Mat 13:18 (NIV) Listen then to what the parable of the Sower means: Not only is Jesus giving you an incredible illustration of life-events, He is going to help you see what it all means. This is the way Jesus and the Bible work. He and the Bible are referred to as light. They are like you walking in the dark and all of a sudden, the sun comes up. If you will open your heart, you will get information that will explain all of those things that have been happening to you. And then, Jesus will explain *why* they were happening to you.

Jesus, I thank You for helping me see life with a lot more clarity. Thank You for opening my eyes and helping me understand spiritual things. I was trying to play the "game" of life without any of the rules. I was surrounded by people who all had their own rules. None of us were willing to find out what the rules really were. So, none of us could cooperate with each other and be a team. Help me learn all the rules and then empower me to apply them to my life.

Chapter Four
Why Am I Able To Understand Spiritual Things?

Week One Day Four

Understanding Human Hearts

As Jesus takes you through this parable, you will see these characteristics in people you know. And, you will see your own heart in this diagnostic parable. Jesus has been working on you and those around you for quite some time. As He has, He has been getting this kind of reaction to His work. So, when you or someone else presents the good new message to them, they respond in one of these four ways. The first one isn't you because you accepted the good news message.

People Who Have Been Walked On All Their Lives
REACTION TYPE ONE: some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

People Who Are Crowd Pleasers
REACTION TYPE TWO: Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

People Who Care More About Things Than People
REACTION TYPE THREE: Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.

People Who Are Having Varying Degrees Of Receptivity To Jesus' Way Of Life
REACTION TYPE FOUR: Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop--a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear."

Where Does Your Heart Fit In?

Reactions Two Through Four

Thank God you didn't have a heart that was so hard that Jesus' good new message couldn't even give you a chance to try Christianity out. You at least have a heart that Jesus can talk to and deal with. The important thing is for you to understand that your heart *could* be one of these next reactions. Let Jesus help you be honest with yourself. It is vital that you not run into any surprises.

Jesus, help me give my heart to You for examination. Show me if there is anything in it that would keep me from making my own decisions. Help me be able to give You and Christianity a chance to prove the greatness of Your plans and provisions. If my heart deceives me, I will get cheated out of the privilege of finding out what You and salvation are all about.

Jesus, show me that I am looking at things You have the power to change; paths can be plowed, disked, fertilized, watered, and made ready for planting; rocks can be dug up and removed from the soil; weeds can be hoed, dug out, poisoned, and removed.

Jesus' Diagnostic Evaluation

Jesus said in **Matthew 13:18-23 (NIV) Listen then to what the parable of the Sower means.** Let's take each one of these possible reactions to Jesus' heart evaluation message and break them down so you can allow them to show you where you may have resistances against salvation.

No Understanding: No Ears To Hear Jesus

REACTION TYPE ONE

When anyone HEARS the message about the kingdom and DOES NOT UNDERSTAND IT, the evil one [Satan] comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. <u>This is the seed sown along the path</u>.

You Have Spiritual Ears!

Getting Your Spiritual Ears Tested

Since you are still reading this, you have just passed the first test. But, it would be good if you would let Jesus test to see if you have any *areas* of hearing loss, have some tone deafness, or have selective hearing. As you go with Jesus through the Bible, you may have some hearing problems. The test question is, have there been areas where Jesus is talking to you and you are having problems understanding or being willing to do what He says?

I Don't See Why I Have To Do That

Jesus, as I try out the principles of Christianity, help me see that a lot of information will be coming my way. Some information will come as a tremendous blessing to my heart and life. However, other information will point to areas of my life that I am not ready to experience a change in. Help me not be a person who gets to this point and decides I don't want to have *anything* to do with Christianity. Also, help me not try to strike a bargain with God and keep parts of Christianity and drop other parts of it. Help me, when I go through real struggles with Christianity, to hold it up to God for further clarification and training.

Would You Help Me See Why I Have To Do That?

Just because you, at first, can't understand why God would require something of you, or, just because you don't understand why He would structure the Christian system a certain way, doesn't mean He can't help you understand the "whys" of it all. If you are willing to be a person who sticks with Him because you know He has perfect reasons, Jesus will start helping you understand *why* He does the things He does and requires the things He requires. That is a much better approach than just quitting without knowing why.

Having Hearing Problems Can Be Caused By A Lack Of Desire

Jesus, help me realize that being healed from my issues with life may have its roots in things I don't want to give up yet. Help me hear and understand *why* God wants me to give that particular life activity up. Help me see that once I hear and understand, then I can decide whether or not I want God's power to give it up. But, make it clear to me that God never asks me to do anything that doesn't have very important reasons behind it. Help me be careful about deciding to reject things God is trying to get me to give up.

Chapter Five

Week One Day Five

People's Opinions:
Ears That Hear Humans More Than Jesus

REACTION TYPE TWO
Mat 13:20-21 (NIV) The one who received the seed that fell on <u>rocky places</u> is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, HE LASTS ONLY A SHORT TIME. <u>When trouble or persecution comes because of the word</u>, he quickly falls away.

Doing What It Takes To Try Christianity Out
Suppose you start living according to Jesus principles for life. You devote yourself to only doing those things that are good for you, other people, *and* God's plan for everyone's life. When some of your friends want you to do things that Jesus is against, you refuse. When your boss, a leader, or an authority wants you to do things that are a win situation for the company or group *but not* for the client or person involved, you refuse. When you start to do something that is best for you but not for your friends, you pray and get Jesus to help you only do good for you *and* your friends.

Jesus, I can see that I might have a problem with going against the crowd. If I have to take a stand that would cost me my job, I would really need Your power and faith to make an honest and fair decision. Help me see whether or not I would give up Christianity so I could keep my job, my friend, or my reputation. Help me see whether or not I need major healing in this area.

People Are Making Fun Of Me
As you explain to your boss or some authority in your life why it isn't a good and successful business to cheat, mislead, and sin against your clients, customers, employees, and other people, some will understand and allow Jesus to change them. But, others will reject you and Jesus' principles. You will also find this true of your friends; some will like this new you and others will start avoiding you. If you are a person who cares more about what people say and think rather than what God says and thinks, you will leave Jesus and His Christianity and go back to your old self.

Jesus, I am used to going with the flow. I typically try to get along with everyone as much as is possible. Help me see what I need to do to stand by my convictions. Help me care more for what is best for my life than what others want from me. I can see that You are best for my life and for my eternal future. Empower me to make decisions that advance me in my attitudes an character. Help me care about what You think over what humans think.

I Don't Know, You Tell Me What To Do
You can allow other people to make decisions for you. If you want to, you can let the criticism and social pressure of your non-Christian "friends" push you out of God's Kingdom. You can allow the threat of losing your job be more important than what Jesus wants. You can allow people who are making fun of you or persecuting you to cause you to quit Christianity. This condition is Jesus' explanation of the seeds that fell on shallow, rocky soil. Personal issues that have their roots in people, their opinions, their actions, and their words, require a healing in the attitudes and character of your heart.

Allowing Jesus To Remove The Rock

1. Pray For Help
Jesus, other people's opinions have quite an effect on how I believe, think, feel, talk, and act. But, have to deal with this issue alone. Jesus is going to be available for you to talk to Him (pray) and ask Him for His power to help you stick with Christianity, get help with your struggles with life, and help you enter into His eternal Kingdom.

2. Get New, Supportive Friends
Also, God has special places where you can find true friends who will encourage you to continue on your journey toward God's Kingdom. A good church is a place where people will accept you and help you stay the course. Their opinions will be encouraging and helpful. AND, we will be here working with Jesus to teach you and train you on how to help people who are resisting you.

3. Share Jesus With Those Around You
If you allow Jesus to, He will teach you how to change bosses, spouses, clients, employees, customers, children, and the new people you meet. A lot of people don't know what the benefits are to being born again. Rather than allowing people who are wrong to pull you back in, you will help many of them change.

4. Believe That You USED TO BE A People Pleaser
You may be a person who has always been a people pleaser. This may be the one area where you have always had major problems in your life. If it goes against the beliefs of your friends, it may be like a rock down in your heart that resists anything that Jesus has to say. But, if you ask Jesus to break up that rock of resistance and heal your heart from going along with the crowd, He will help you stand on your own two feet. He will help you stand up to all the social pressure and stay locked into freedom from difficulties with life. He will help you with a determination to spend eternity with your heavenly Father.

Workbook Chapter Three
How To Get The Power-Life

PEOPLE'S OPINIONS:
EARS THAT HEAR HUMANS MORE THAN JESUS

REACTION TYPE TWO

Jesus, help me not be **one who receives the seed that fell on <u>rocky places</u>.** Help me not be a person **who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since** I have **no root,** I **LAST ONLY A SHORT TIME. <u>When trouble or persecution comes because of the word</u>,** I **quickly fall away (Mat 13:20-21).**

Doing What It Takes To Be Born Again

Jesus, protect me from this reaction number two of the four reactions people have to hearing the message on how to join God's Kingdom. As I finish looking at all four reactions, and as I can see how one or more of them are possibly the way I will react to the instructions on how to become a citizen of God's Kingdom, help me decide to join God's family and go ahead and try Christianity out.

Once I decide to give You and Your Christianity a try, help me pray the prayer I am given. Help me pray the prayer that You gave us to pray that allows me to "test drive" Christianity. Give me a "taste" of all the wonderful things You have to offer. Help me become a person who understands Christianity; help me understand it well enough to be able to decide whether or not I like all the things You have to offer.

Doing What It Takes To Try Christianity Out

Jesus, when I start living according to Your principles for life, help me devote myself to only doing those things that are good for me, other people, AND God's plan for everyone's life. Then when some of my friends want me to do things that You are against, empower me to refuse.

When my boss or some leader wants me to do things that are a win situation for the company or group BUT NOT for the client or person of interest, teach me how to refuse. When I start to do something that is best for me but not for my friends, help me pray and get You to help me only do good for me AND my friends.

People Are Making Fun Of Me

Help me explain to my boss or some authority in my life why it isn't a good and successful business or way of life to cheat, mislead, and sin against clients, customers, employees, and people in general. Teach me that some will understand and allow You to change them. But, help me accept the fact that others will reject me and Your principles for life.

Prepare me for the fact that I will also find this true of my friends; some will like this new me and others will start avoiding me. Help me not be a person who cares more about what people say and think rather than what God says and thinks. Keep me from leaving You and Your Christianity and going back to my old self.

I Don't Know, You Tell Me What To Do

Jesus, I can allow other people to make my decisions for me. If I want to, I can let the criticism and social pressure of my non-Christian "friends" push me out of God's Kingdom. I can allow the threat of losing my job be more important than what You want. I can allow people, who are making fun of me or persecuting me, to cause me to quit Christianity. Help me understand that if I yield to these pressures, I have the condition You explained as being the seeds that fell on shallow, rocky soil. Teach me that yielding to these kinds of people means I have my roots blocked off by people, their opinions, their actions, and their words. Show me that I need a healing in the attitudes and character of my heart; help me get that healing.

Allowing Jesus To Remove The Rock

1. Pray For Help

Jesus, other people's opinions have quite an effect on how I believe, think, feel, talk, and act. Teach me how to pray so I don't have to deal with this issue alone. Help me accept that You will be available for me to talk to (pray). And, help me realize that I can ask You for Your power to help me stick with Christianity. Show me that I can get help with my struggles with life; and, I can be helped to enter into Your eternal Kingdom.

2. Get New, Supportive Friends

Jesus, You have special places where I can find true friends who will encourage me to continue on my journey toward God's Kingdom. Help me find a good church where people will accept me and help me stay the course. Let their opinions be encouraging and helpful. AND, let me allow these studies be working together with Jesus to teach me and train me on how to deal with and even help people who are resisting me.

3. Share Jesus With Those Around You

Jesus, empower me to allow You to teach me how to change bosses, spouses, clients, employees, customers, children, and the new people I meet. A lot of people don't know what the benefits are to being born again. So, rather than me allowing people who are wrong to pull me back in, let me help many of THEM change.

4. Believe That You USED TO BE A People Pleaser

Jesus, I may have been a person who has always been a people pleaser. This may be an area where I have always had major problems in my life. If Your principles go against the beliefs of my friends and people who influence me, it may be like a rock down in my heart that resists anything that You have to say. But, I ask You to break up that rock of resistance and heal my heart from going along with the crowd; help me stand on my own two feet. Help me stand up to all the social pressure and stay locked into freedom from difficulties with life. Help me with a determination to spend eternity with my heavenly Father.

Textbook Chapter Four
How To Get The Power-Life

WORLDLY CARES:
EARS THAT HEAR THE WORLD
MORE THAN JESUS

REACTION TYPE THREE
Mat 13:22 (NIV) The one who received the seed that fell <u>among the thorns</u> is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.

Having An Intense Concern For Physical Needs

What Do You Worry About?
This third reaction is all about YOU and what YOU consider most important. **The worries of this life:** If you find yourself to be a worrier about life's problems most of the time, then you may have some weeds in your life. **The deceitfulness of wealth:** If you find yourself being overly concerned about getting, spending, and saving a lot of money most of the time, you may have found the root cause for your suffering and pain. But, just because this is a problem in your character doesn't mean you HAVE to stay this way.

Do You WANT To Be Free?
Once again, Jesus, the Bible, these studies, and other Christians are available to help you win this battle. But, the question we all have to face is, do we want to be set free from these concerns and worries? DESIRE is the difference between a person who gets healed from struggles with life and the person who stays defeated by it. Since Jesus won't set us free from something we don't want freedom from, desire makes all the difference between winning and losing.

What Do You Believe Will Set You Free?
We all fall under the pressure of life's problems and money issues from time to time. Even those of us who have been Christians for a long time, have to deal with these issues. The difference between a person who will CONTINUE to lose at their battle against their problems with life and a CHRISTIAN who will EVENTUALLY win against it, is that the Christian receives a powerful WANTING to do, think, feel, and say good things. That powerful WANTING will enable you to learn, understand, and change into a person free from the things that are causing you pain because of your problems with life.

Wanting Is Good Enough For Jesus

This Is Different From World Training

Jesus is looking for a DESIRE in your heart to feel, think, do, and say the right things. If you DESIRE (WANT) to live according to the right things, Jesus will keep working with you until you win. You are used to BEING RESPONSIBLE for solving your own problems. People in the world will train you on how to solve those problems; but, YOU have to do it. If you are dominated by **worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth,** it is probably because YOU THINK that if you don't worry, come up with your own plan, and set your own goals, you will get hurt.

We need Jesus' power to deal with these intense situations. We need to be set free from world training that puts all the pressure on us for trying to solve all our own problems. We need to be taught by Jesus how to yield to Him and His power so we can be set free from our struggles with life. We need Him to show us how to be taught in these studies but to not try to follow them through our own strength. We need to be led into the way to yield to Jesus' supernatural power that makes everything possible for us.

Jesus Is Alive!

Since Jesus was raised from the dead, and since He is the head of a living "religion," Christianity isn't about what YOU can do for Jesus, it is about what JESUS can do for you. If Christianity were dead and Jesus were dead, then it would have to be about you helping yourself. Christianity would be like world training and other religions, you would be given the rules, principles, and philosophies and then you would be responsible for carrying them out.

Jesus Does It WITH You

If you are infected with **worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth,** then all you have to do is allow Jesus to help you be born again. And then you and He will work together to defeat this issue. He will provide you with the knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and power and you will be able to do something you weren't able to do before. With something as powerful as **worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth,** you wouldn't stand a chance of winning over it. But, with Jesus working with you and through you, you will win.

Weeds Have Seeds

Weeds are a lot different from hard dirt on the path or rocks in your garden; weeds are alive and can grow back. It is possible for some people to mistreat you again and cause you to want to harden your heart. But, there are ways of Jesus keeping that from happening to you. However, weeds have seeds floating through the air; they have stickers that stick to your clothing and to animal's hair; and they can grow from the roots that you don't quite get out when you pull them up.

There are things called temptations that come into your mind and come through your eyes and ears. They are like those weed seeds that float through the air. Jesus will have to help you not get drawn back into **worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth.** He will be teaching you a way to

stay in constant contact with Him so when temptations come your way, you will work together with Him and win over them.

How Many Times Can I Mess Up?

Don't Give Up

All of us Christians have struggled with being walked on, people's opinions, worries about the pressures and problems of this life, and the temptations that come concerning money. However, none of this has the power to FORCE us away from Jesus' help. No matter how many times we fail, as long as we continue to DESIRE Jesus' help to give us the proper perspective concerning the issues of life, we will get it.

Jesus will NEVER give up on you, as long as you never give up on Him.

We All Fail

We all make a lot of mistakes; but as long as our "desire" is pointed in the right direction, Jesus will NOT consider us as having failed Him or His plan for our healing and our life. He will keep giving us His provisions and will be willing to seal us inside of Christianity so He can give us all its benefits. He WILL heal you from being damaged by the problems with life, as long as you keep WANTING His help, provisions, and power. You just have to allow Him to set you free from the CAUSES that problems with life have their roots attached to.

Workbook Chapter Four
How To Get The Power-Life

WORLDLY CARES: EARS THAT HEAR THE WORLD MORE THAN JESUS

REACTION TYPE THREE

Jesus, help me not be one **who receives the seed that fell <u>among the thorns</u>.** Help me not be a person **who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful (Mat 13:22).**

Having An Intense Concern For Physical Needs

What Do You Worry About?

Jesus, this third reaction is all about me and what I consider most important. **The worries of this life:** If I find myself to be a worrier about life's problems most of the time, then I may have some weeds in my life. **The deceitfulness of wealth:** If I find myself being overly concerned about getting, spending, and saving money most of the time, I may have found the root cause for my suffering and pain. But, help me understand that just because this is a problem in my character it doesn't mean I HAVE to stay this way.

Do You WANT To Be Free?

Jesus, You, the Bible, these studies, and other Christians are available to help me win this battle. But, the question I face is, do I want to be set free from these concerns and worries? Since DESIRE is the difference between me getting healed from my struggles with life and me staying defeated by it, give me that desire to be healed. Since You won't set me free from something I don't want freedom from, teach me that desire makes all the difference between me winning or losing.

What Do You Believe Will Set You Free?

Jesus, it is normal for me to fall under the pressure of life's problems and money issues from time to time. Even when I have been a Christian for a long time, I will have to deal with these issues. But, teach me the difference between me being a person who will CONTINUE to lose the battle against my problems with life, and me being a CHRISTIAN who will EVENTUALLY win against it. Show me that the difference comes through me being a Christian that receives a powerful WANTING to do, think, feel, and say good things. That powerful WANTING will enable me to learn, understand, and change into a person free from the things that are causing me pain because of my problems with life.

Wanting Is Good Enough For Jesus

This Is Different From World Training

Jesus, You are looking for a DESIRE in my heart to feel, think, do, and say the right things. If I DESIRE (WANT) to live according to the right things, You will keep working with me until I win. I am used to BEING RESPONSIBLE for solving my own problems. People in the world have trained me on how to solve various problems; but, I have to take their training and do it

myself. Help me realize that if I am dominated by **worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth,** it is probably because I THINK that if I don't worry, come up with my own plan, and set my own goals, I will get hurt.

Help me see that I need Your power to deal with these intense situations. Set me free from world training that puts all the pressure on me for trying to solve all my own problems. Teach me how to yield to You and Your power so I can be set free from my struggles with life. Show me how to be taught in these studies but to not try to follow them through my own strength. Lead me into the way to yield to Your supernatural power that makes everything possible for me.

Jesus Is Alive!

Jesus, since You were raised from the dead, and since You are the head of a living "religion," Christianity isn't about what I can do for You, it is about what You can do for me. If Christianity were dead and You were dead, then it would have to be about me helping myself. Christianity would be like world training and other religions, I would be given the rules, principles, and philosophies and then I would be responsible for carrying them out.

Jesus Does It WITH You

Jesus, if I am infected with **worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth,** then all I have to do is allow You to help me be born again; and then, You and I will work together to defeat this issue. Teach me that You will provide me with the knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and power; and then, I will be able to do something I wasn't able to do before. With something as powerful as **worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth,** I wouldn't stand a chance of winning over it. But, with You working with me and through me, I will win.

Weeds Have Seeds

Jesus, help me understand that weeds are a lot different from hard dirt on the path or rocks in my garden; weeds are alive and can grow back into my life. It is possible for some people to mistreat me again and cause me to want to harden my heart. But, there are ways for You to keep that from happening to me. However, weeds have seeds floating through the air; they have stickers that stick to my clothing and to animal's hair; and they can grow from the roots that I don't quite get out when I pull them up.

Teach me that there are things called temptations that come into my mind and come through my eyes and ears. They are like those weed seeds that float through the air. You will have to

help me not get drawn back into the **worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth.** Teach me a way to stay in constant contact with You so when temptations come my way, I will work together with You and win over them.

How Many Times Can I Mess Up?

Don't Give Up

Jesus, help me understand that all Christians struggle with being walked on, with people's opinions, with worries about the pressures and problems of this life, and the temptations that come concerning money. However, none of this has the power to FORCE me away from Your help. No matter how many times I fail, as long as I continue to DESIRE Your help to give me the proper perspective concerning the issues of life, You will give it to me.

Jesus, I thank You That You
will NEVER give up on me,
as long as I never give up on You.

We All Fail

Jesus, I make a lot of mistakes; but teach me that as long as my "desire" is pointed in the right direction, You will NOT consider me as having failed You or You plan for my healing and my life. You will keep giving me Your provisions and will be willing to seal me inside of Christianity so You can give me all its benefits. You WILL heal me from being damaged by the problems with life, as long as I keep WANTING Your help, provisions, and power. I just have to allow You to set me free from the CAUSES that problems with life have their roots attached to.

Textbook Chapter Five
How To Get The Power-Life

PRODUCE A CROP:
EARS THAT HEAR AND UNDERSTAND JESUS
MORE THAN PEOPLE'S OPINIONS
AND WORLDLY CARES

REACTION TYPE FOUR
Mat 13:23 But the one who received the seed that fell on <u>good soil</u> is the man who HEARS the word and UNDERSTANDS it. HE PRODUCES A CROP, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

Jesus Can Help You Be Like This

We hope and pray that you will be this kind of person. We are asking Jesus to help you react to His good news message about the Kingdom this way. We have asked Him to give you a heart that is receptive to His message. And, we have asked Him to help you to allow it to grow in your heart until you not only become a Christian, but you share your life successes and healing from all your difficulties with life with those around you. Ask Jesus to give you a "good soil" heart.

Let's take a look at four things you need to pray and ask Jesus to help you with. These four prayer issues will address the four typical reactions to Jesus' salvation message and the new birth. Pray about these issues so you can be set free from everything that might resist your relationship with Jesus and your heavenly Father.

The Four Prayer Issues

1. Mat 13:19 (NIV) When anyone hears the message about the kingdom <u>and does not understand it</u>, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. Pray that Jesus will help you be healed from problems with UNDERSTANDING this message about His Kingdom.

2. Mat 13:20-21 (NIV) The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short

time. <u>When trouble or persecution comes because of the word</u>, he quickly falls away. Ask Jesus to protect you from allowing other PEOPLE'S OPINIONS to affect how you react to His message concerning your life here and His eternal Kingdom.

3. Mat 13:22 (NIV) The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but <u>the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it</u>, making it unfruitful. Give Jesus permission to heal your heart concerning the PROBLEMS AND PRESSURES OF THIS LIFE crowding out His message. Ask Him to help you stay focused on what it is going to take to be ready to enter into His Kingdom when the time comes. Let Him change your value system and help you prize eternity over money, possessions, popularity, power, prestige, positions, pleasure, and accomplishments.

4. Mat 13:23 (NIV) But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. <u>He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown</u>. Pray that Jesus will so heal your heart that you DECIDE to stay with Christianity all the way to the end of your life here on earth. Ask Him to help you to be one of His best children. Pray that you would not only produce a "crop" of friends who have also become Christians; but that you would be one who produces one hundred times what was sown in your heart.

Let Jesus deliver you from these CAUSES that are coming from your issues with life and He will crowd them out of your life.

Workbook Chapter Five
How To Get The Power-Life

PRODUCE A CROP:
EARS THAT HEAR AND UNDERSTAND JESUS
MORE THAN PEOPLE'S OPINIONS
AND WORLDLY CARES

REACTION TYPE FOUR

Jesus, make me into **one who receives the seed that fell on <u>good soil</u>.** And, help me be a person **who HEARS the word and UNDERSTANDS it.** Let me be one who **PRODUCES A CROP, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown (Mat 13:23).**

Jesus Can Help You Be Like This

Jesus, I thank You for people who are hoping and praying that I will be this kind of person. I thank You for those who are asking You to help me react to Your good news message about the Kingdom this way. I thank You for those who have asked You to give me a heart that is receptive to Your message. And, I thank You for those who have asked You to help me to allow it to grow in my heart until I not only become a Christian, but I share my life successes and healing. Help me share my successes and healing from all my difficulties with life with those around me. I ask You, Jesus, to give me a "good soil" heart.

Jesus, as I take a look at the four things I need to pray and ask You to help me with, help me pray these prayers with a sincere heart. Help these four prayer issues address the four typical reactions to Your salvation message and the new birth. I pray about these issues so I can be set free from everything that might resist my relationship with You and my heavenly Father.

The Four Prayer Issues

1. When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path (Mat 13:19). Jesus, I pray that You will help m be healed from problems with UNDERSTANDING this message about Your Kingdom.

2. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away (Mat 13:20-21). Jesus, I ask You to protect me from allowing other PEOPLE'S OPINIONS to affect how I react to Your message concerning my life here and Your eternal Kingdom.

3. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it

unfruitful (Mat 13:22). Jesus, I give You permission to heal my heart concerning the PROBLEMS AND PRESSURES OF THIS LIFE crowding out Your message. I ask You to help me stay focused on what it is going to take to be ready to enter into Your Kingdom when the time comes. I let You change my value system and help me prize eternity over money, possessions, popularity, power, prestige, positions, pleasure, and accomplishments.

4. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. <u>He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown</u> (Mat 13:23). Jesus, heal my heart so that I DECIDE to stay with Christianity all the way to the end of my life here on earth. I ask You to help me be one of Your best children. I pray that I will not only produce a "crop" of friends who have also become Christians, but that I will be one who produces one hundred times what was sown in my heart.

Jesus, I let You deliver me from these CAUSES that are coming from my issues with life; crowd them out of my life.

Textbook Chapter Six
How To Get The Power-Life

The Doors Into God's Eternal Kingdom

Jesus Is Your Way In

What Do You Have To Do?

Jesus is taking you into a new realm, a new existence, and a new way of life. You can ONLY enter into this realm through Jesus. **John 14:6 (NIV) Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.** Jesus is going to give you the words to speak; and, the words you speak, in God's spiritual realm, are the way you move into the places you and Jesus want you to go. Once you learn this, you will learn how to move forward into all kinds of wonderful things.

James 3:2 (NIV) We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check. In the spirit realm, your heart, mouth, and tongue are the steering mechanism that decides where you go, what you get, and who you become.

Your Heart, Your Mouth, And Your Life

Jesus said in **Matthew 12:34b (NIV) For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.** So, it is very important for you to want these things with all your heart. You must want each thing Jesus will be leading you through in His prayer. When you say each phrase of this prayer, stop and check your heart. Do you REALLY want God to do this for you and in you? Jesus only wants you to pray each part of this prayer with your mouth if it represents the desires of your heart. But, if it DOES represents your heart, and if you DO speak it with your mouth, it WILL bless and transform your life.

Your Words Open The Door

Here is an example of how our mouth and tongue work in the spirit realm: **James 3:3-4 (NIV) When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.** You are going to be given an opportunity to use your mouth and tongue to say prayers that Jesus is giving you. If

you use your mouth and tongue to pray these prayers, supernatural, God-sized things will happen to you. Jesus' prayer, if you pray it, will CAUSE you to be born again.

Jesus' Prayer Guides Your Mouth
It may seem impossible to be born again by simply using your heart and mouth to pray these words Jesus gives you; but, because this is JESUS' prayer, each part of it will move you right into being born again. God is listening to you as you pray JESUS' prayer; and, He is honoring each sentence you pray. When you finish Jesus' prayer, if you believe God has heard and given you your new birth, you WILL BE BORN AGAIN!
In Matthew (the first book of the New Testament) chapter 6, verses 9-13 (Mat 6:9-13), Jesus said: **"This, then, is how you should pray."** Since Jesus said this, that means that is what we should do. Jesus was telling us how to ask God for the privilege of entering His Kingdom and live there forever; so, let's take that prayer a little bit at a time and see if you want to pray each part of it.

Jesus' Prayer

Jesus' Prayer Changes Everything
Mat 6:9-13 "<u>This, then, is how you should pray</u>: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'" Jesus' prayer, when prayed, will transform the person who prays it. Jesus uses it to start you into being born again; then as you keep prayng His prayer all during the rest of your life, He empowers it to keep adding power to your born again experience.

Jesus' Prayer Cures You
From The Spiritual Disease Of Sin
Okay now, let's break Jesus' prayer down so you can understand what He is leading you into. He is leading you into asking for vital things from God, your heavenly Father. His prayer isn't a magical set of words like "open sesame" and the doors to the Kingdom of God open to you. Jesus designed His prayer in such a way so you would ask God to let you into His Kingdom. You will get in by Him cleansing you from all spiritual disease, which is sin. Jesus is using His prayer to lead you into a special relationship with God. He is helping you be born again BY accepting God as your heavenly Father.

Is This YOUR Prayer?
Jesus wants you to understand what it is you are asking for. As Jesus leads you into asking God for the things in each phrase, it has to be what you REALLY want for your future here and in eternity. The reason Jesus took you through all these studies getting you here, was so you could pray His prayer from your heart. These words ARE the requests that HAVE to be made in order for you to enter God's Kingdom; but, these words MUST represent what you WANT! Take these very important words and see if you are WILLING to make them YOUR prayer to God.

The Prayer Jesus Is Giving You To Pray

Jesus Is Using This Prayer
To Empower You To Be Born Again
Mat 6:9-13 This, then, is how you should pray: This prayer contains the issues and requests that you MUST pray in order to enter into God's Kingdom. There are a lot of other prayers, called "sinner's prayers," that Christians use to help people be born again; and, they work to some degree. However, Jesus gives us the best prayer we can pray.

Jesus' Prayer Helps With Your Day
You are going to be starting a life of talking to your heavenly Father. You will be praying to Him and asking Him to heal you from all the ROOT causes of the problems you are having with life. You will be praying and asking for His help in living a new life as a new spiritual person. AND, your heavenly Father will be working miracles and giving you blessings in response to those prayers. So, this special prayer will be the starting prayer that helps you keep growing in your born again experience.

If you ultimately decide to pray Jesus' prayer so you can make God your heavenly Father, and if you pray it so you can live the Christian life for the rest of your life, then this prayer from Jesus incorporates the main requests you will continue to pray on a daily basis.

Workbook Chapter Six
How To Get The Power-Life

The Steps To Being Born Into God's Kingdom

The Workbook Plan
You will be praying two types of prayers; you will start out praying a series of prayers asking Jesus to get you ready to pray His prayer for you being born again. Then at the end of that step you will be given an opportunity to pray a small part of Jesus' prayer.

You can keep going over and praying about a step for as often and as long as you need to. Until Jesus has helped you understand and got you ready for what you are about to pray in His prayer, you will need to keep studying and praying the preceding prayers. Then once you feel like Jesus has answered these preparatory prayers, and once you feel like He has helped you understand and got you ready to pray His prayer to be born again, you can go ahead and pray that part of Jesus'

prayer. When you pray Jesus' prayer, it will do supernatural things in you from your heavenly Father.

Step One: Our Father in heaven

It All Starts With Love

Our: Jesus, help me notice and understand why this prayer includes others besides me. Show me why it starts off with "our" Father rather than "my" Father. Show me that from this moment on, I will start becoming concerned with not only my problems here on earth and my eternal life, but, I will also care about the earthly and eternal life of all humans everywhere. Make this my first step into learning how to love others and be concerned about their welfare.

It's A Desire To Share

Jesus, teach me how vital it is to allow You to help me with my life's problems and help me with spending eternity with my heavenly Father. Show me that as I learn how important it is to enter God's Kingdom, You will help me start feeling a desire for my friends to make the same decision.

Teach me that, as You start healing me from having problems with life and the other problems I face, and as I learn how important eternity is, I will start to see how important it is for my acquaintances. If it is that important for me, then it is that important for them.

Taking Step One

Your First Step Into Spiritual Birth

Our Father in heaven: Jesus, help me understand that this is the place in Your prayer where I ACCEPT God as my heavenly Father. I am opening my heart to Him and am GIVING Him permission to CAUSE me to be born again. When I say: "MY heavenly Father" and "OUR heavenly Father," it gives me the born again experience. At that moment I AM born again as a child of God, and He IS my heavenly Father.

I didn't have any say in the process of being born on this planet as a human; that decision was made for me. Help me appreciate the fact that at this moment I am being given the privilege of making my own decision by accepting God as my heavenly Father. Make it real to me that when I call Him my heavenly Father, I am giving Him permission to make me His child.

Spiritual Birth Comes Through Your Request

Jesus, help me be willing to be made one of God's children. Help me simply call Him my heavenly Father and KNOW that He will cause me to be born for a second time. Reveal to me that this will be a spiritual birth; AND, just like it did in my first birth, it will take me some time and study to understand this second existence.

When I was born as a baby, I had a family and a country that I was born in. The family provided me with certain rights and privileges; and, the country I was born in did the same. And, from that example, help me understand that by becoming God's child I will gain all the rights and privileges of entering into His family and Kingdom. Then after I have had some time to learn more about these rights and privileges, let it help me appreciate what this prayer did for me.

Your Acceptance Of God As Your Father

If you are willing, then first go ahead and say: "Our Father in heaven." Then after you say that, say: "MY Father in heaven."

Congratulations! You were just born into your heavenly Father's family! You are now His child and a citizen in His eternal Kingdom. If you keep moving on in praying Jesus' prayer, you will experience all the things you will need. They will help you experience a complete and successful birth into all God has for you. Birth is just the beginning; there are more things you need so as to keep you alive after birth.

Step Two: Hallowed be Your name

There's Nothing Wrong, Bad, Or Evil In God

Hollowed: Jesus, help me understand that this word means holy; that means that the God I have just accepted as my heavenly Father is pure and does not have anything in His attitudes, character, or existence that is wrong, bad, or evil. Make it clear to me that He doesn't think, feel, say, or do wrong, bad, or evil things; He is perfect. Show me that He has excluded all lying, cheating, stealing, hatred, murder, and evil from His being. Help me always understand that He IS love, IS truth, IS generous, IS gracious, IS merciful, and IS perfect.

Show me that the thing that makes His Kingdom such an awesome place where I will be spending eternity is the quality of its God. Show me that I will soon find that God thinks, feels, says, and does only right, good, and righteous things. If I allow Him to show me the full reasons behind all of His principles and systems, I am going to be completely impressed with Who He is. But for now, help me understand the fact that God is incredibly generous.

The Starting Of A Life Of Gifts

Hallowed be Your name: Jesus, teach me that the name, "God" (Elohim in Hebrew), represents the only Being over everything that exists. He is all powerful (omnipotent), knows everything (omniscient), omnipresent (is everywhere), and perfect. That means He could be anything He wanted to be. But, He chose to be holy, pure, godly, righteous, loving, merciful, and gracious. Help me love, appreciate, respect, and always thank Him for making that decision.

Teach me that the generosity of my heavenly Father is demonstrated by the fact that He is gracious (gives me gifts not deserved) and merciful (exempts me from penalties and side effects deserved). If I say **"hallowed be Your name,"** I am acknowledging that I am accepting the fact that He is going to give me things I do not deserve (grace). I am also accepting the fact that He is not going to let me be punished for the things I deserve to be punished for (mercy).

What's In A Name?

Your name: Jesus, I and a lot of other people got our names based on someone's name in the family, or, based on a name our parents liked the sound of. But, show me that in God's realm, a name is the description of the attitudes and character of the person. Help me understand that God's name describes Who He is and What He does. When I say, "God," He expects me to think of that name as meaning a Being that is holy, pure, only good, very generous, gracious, merciful, loving, and all powerful.

As I get more and more chances to experience God, His attitudes, His character, and my relationship with Him, let His name cause all these feelings and thoughts to come up inside me. When I talk about Him, let love, appreciation, respect, and closeness to show up in my words, my tone of voice, and my facial expressions.

Your Acceptance Of Your Heavenly Father's True Character

If you can appreciate to some degree these two gifts (grace and mercy), then say: "Hallowed be Your name."

Textbook Chapter Seven
How To Get The Power-Life

The Doors Into God's Eternal Kingdom

Your kingdom come

Getting The Kingdom Before Entering It

Kingdom: Before you can enter into God's Kingdom, God's Kingdom is going to have to enter into you. That probably doesn't make a lot of sense right now. But, just be patient with the concept and it will gradually come clear to you.

God's Kingdom is only going to be as great as the people who live there. If there are murders, thieves, cheats, liars, and bullies there, then it is going to be a lot like what we have here on earth; but, times eternity. There would be wars, pain, suffering, and people taking unfair advantage of one another; and, it would keep getting worse forever.

Getting Ready For The Kingdom

You MUST be set free from even the smallest of attitudes, thinking, feelings, words, and deeds that are creating problems and conflicts. To be an asset to God's Kingdom, yourself, and all the people there, you are going to need to be changed. You can't change these things in you; but Jesus can. He can get you ready for God's Kingdom, your life here, and eternity by putting the character and principles of God's Kingdom in you now.

Asking For God's Kingdom To Come In
If you want to allow the character and principles of God's Kingdom to enter into your personality and emotions, then you will need to pray and ask for His Kingdom to come inside you. In other words, this is a series of requests you are making of your heavenly Father, God. When you say, Your Kingdom come, you are asking Him to put His Kingdom in your heart, in your life, and in the issues you are having with life.

Asking Invites God To Do What We Need Done
One of the main requirements of the born again child of God is that they accept Jesus as their Savior, Lord, and King. When you say: **Your kingdom come,** you are giving God permission to put the King of the Kingdom into your heart, mind, and life. It is the moment you accept Jesus as the Savior, Lord, and King of your life; BECAUSE Jesus is the King of this Kingdom. If you pray this part of this prayer, when you ask for God's Kingdom to come, you are inviting the King, Jesus, to come inside you.

Qualify Others For Your Kingdom

Don't Forget Your Friends
By using the words "our" and "us," in this prayer, you are also asking God to bring Jesus, the King of His Kingdom into the hearts and lives of all the people on this planet. This prayer, Jesus gave us, isn't a selfish prayer; it is a prayer for you and everyone else. It is teaching you to always want everyone else to receive all the good things that happen to you.

Ask Jesus To Do These Things For You And Your Friends:

- **Ask Jesus to speed up the process of giving everyone the good news message about God's Kingdom.**
- **Ask Jesus to allow everyone to try God's Kingdom out.**
- **Ask Jesus to give everyone time to make a knowledgeable decision about God's Kingdom.**

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

Do You Want A Change Of Will?
Will: The reason there is so much suffering on earth is because people are being allowed to do what they want. God is giving us a complete picture of what life is like when people are free to do anything they WANT. You have been running your life with a God-given freedom of WILL. You have chosen to be the way you are, the way you think, the way you talk, and the way you do the things you do. Your God-given free will has put you in charge of your life.

Do You Want A Kingdom Will?

If you are completely satisfied with your life and the way you are running it, then you will not want to pray Jesus' prayer. God's WILL is pure, fair, gracious, merciful, and sinless. If you want to USE people for meeting your financial, sexual, physical, and emotional needs, then you aren't ready to pray and ask God to let His will be done in your life, as you live here on earth. You have to be WILLING to ask Him to make these Kingdom changes in your philosophies, thoughts, feeling, words, and deeds.

This Is How To Have World Peace

Wanting Peace But Not Giving Peace

People are constantly talking about world peace. They wear peace symbols on their clothes and as jewelry.

Most people want peace to come to them but don't want to do what it takes to allow peace to flow out of them to others.

People typically want to continue to exercise their God-given free will; but, they want YOU to limit YOUR behavior so they can have peace. But, no one wants to be the only one who is being peaceful, loving, and kind while being mistreated by everyone else. If you ask God to put His will in your life, you are going to need to ask Him to also do His will in the lives of the rest of the people on this planet; or, you will be the only one being peaceful, loving, and kind.

Bringing Heaven To Earth

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven: Right now, at this moment, heaven is in perfect harmony and peace while being one of the most exciting places in existence. If God's will starts being done on earth just like it is currently being done in heaven, then peace, harmony, love, excitement, and true happiness will come into this world. How is that going to happen? One person at a time. The Bible makes it clear that everyone isn't going to allow God's will to be done in their lives; but, many will. The more people become Christians, the more God's will, will be done on earth as it is being done in heaven.

Ask Jesus To Do These Things For You And Your Friends:

- **Ask Jesus to speed up the process of giving everyone the good news message about God's will.**
- **Ask Jesus to help everyone try yielding to God's will.**
- **Ask Jesus to give everyone time to make a knowledgeable decision concerning God's will.**

Workbook Chapter Seven
How To Get The Power-Life

The Steps To Being Born Into God's Kingdom

Step Three: Your kingdom come

Getting The Kingdom Before Entering It

Kingdom: Jesus, help me understand that before I can enter into God's Kingdom, God's Kingdom has to enter into me. Help this concept to make sense to me so I can accept it into my heart and life. Help me be patient with the concept and let it gradually come clear to me.

Show me that God's Kingdom is only going to be as great as the people who live there. If there are murders, thieves, cheats, liars, and bullies there, then it is going to be a lot like what we have here on earth; but, times eternity. There would be wars, pain, suffering, and people taking unfair advantage of one another; and, it would keep getting worse forever. Help me understand that the principles, concepts, philosophies, attitudes, and character represented in You and Your Kingdom MUST be present in me.

Getting Ready For The Kingdom

Jesus, set me free from even the smallest of attitudes, thinking, feelings, words, and deeds that are creating problems and conflicts. Help me be an asset to God's Kingdom, myself, and all the people there in Your Kingdom. Let this born again experience empower me to be changed. Teach me that I can't change these things in myself; but You can. You can get me ready for God's Kingdom, my life here, and eternity by putting the character and principles of God's Kingdom in me now. Help me see that since I am being born again, I am going to have the power through You to experience these important changes.

Asking For God's Kingdom To Come In

Jesus, empower me to allow the character and principles of God's Kingdom to enter into my personality and emotions, I now pray and ask for Your Kingdom to come inside me. Show me that this is a series of requests I am making of my heavenly Father, God. Help me believe that when I say, Your Kingdom come, I am asking God to put His Kingdom in my heart, in my life, and in the issues I am having with life. Help me know that You have NOW come inside me and are NOW residing in my body with my spirit; we are living in my body together.

Asking Invites God To Do What We Need Done

Make it clear to me that I gave God permission to put all the things His Kingdom stands for inside me. I have asked Him to let His Kingdom come inside me and make me into a person who is good enough, healthy enough, and clean enough to be a member of His family and a citizen of His Kingdom. Show me that this is the moment I am accepting Jesus as the Savior, Lord, and King of my life; help me see that this BECAUSE Jesus is the King of this Kingdom. When I pray this part of this prayer, when I ask for God's Kingdom to come, I am inviting the King, Jesus, to come inside me.

Accepting Jesus As Your Savior, Lord, And King

If you want God's Kingdom to be placed in your heart and life, and if you are willing to accept Jesus as your Savior, Lord, and King over you, then say: "Let Your Kingdom and its King come into my heart and my life."

Your Prayer For Your Friends

If you want God's Kingdom to come into the hearts and lives of the people in this world, then say: "Let Your Kingdom come into the hearts and lives of all who are willing to accept You."

Step Four: Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Do You Want A Change Of Will?

Will: Jesus, reveal to me that the reason there is so much suffering on earth is because people are being allowed to do what they want. God is giving us a complete picture of what life is like when people are free to do anything they WANT. I have been running my life with a God-given freedom of WILL. I have chosen to be the way I am, the way I think, the way I talk, and the way I do the things I do. My God-given free will has been in charge of my life. Help me make major changes in my will through the power I got through being born again.

Do You Want A Kingdom Will?

Jesus, help me see that if I am completely satisfied with my life and the way I am running it, then I will not want to pray Your prayer. Teach me that God's WILL is pure, fair, gracious, merciful, and sinless. If I want to USE people for meeting my financial, sexual, physical, and emotional needs, then I am not ready to pray and ask God to let His will be done in my life, as I live here on earth. I have to be WILLING to ask Him to make these Kingdom changes in my

philosophies, thoughts, feeling, words, and deeds. Help me take advantage of my new birth and allow Your will to be done in my life.

This Is How To Have World Peace

Wanting Peace But Not Giving Peace

Jesus, people are constantly talking about world peace. They wear peace symbols on their clothes and as jewelry. But, they aren't willing to do what it takes to have world peace. Help me to be willing to "do what it takes" to do my part for world peace.

Most people want peace to come to them but don't want to do what it takes to allow peace to flow out of them to others.

Jesus, I like everyone else typically want to continue to exercise my God-given free will; but, I want OTHERS to limit THEIR behavior so I can have peace. But, I don't want to be the only one who is being peaceful, loving, and kind while being mistreated by everyone else. Show me that if I ask God to put His will in my life, I am going to need to ask Him to also do His will in the lives of the rest of the people on this planet; or, I will be the only one being peaceful, loving, and kind.

Bringing Heaven To Earth

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven: Jesus, help me understand that right now, at this moment, heaven is in perfect harmony and peace while being one of the most exciting places in existence. If God's will starts being done on earth just like it is currently being done in heaven, then peace, harmony, love, excitement, and true happiness will come into this world. Teach me how this is going to happen. Let me understand that it is going to happen one person at a time. Show me that the Bible makes it clear that everyone isn't going to allow God's will to be done in their lives; but, many will. Let me see that the more people become Christians, the more God's will, will be done on earth as it is being done in heaven.

Accepting God's Will In You

If this is what you want for you then say these words: "Your will be done in me on this earth just like it is being done in heaven."

If this is what you want for the people of this earth, then say these words: "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Textbook Chapter Eight
How To Get The Power-Life

Give us today our daily bread.

Life Isn't Just About Being Human
Daily Bread: Sometimes we end up doing things we aren't proud of, as we try to get our daily needs met. There are times when we spend every waking moment trying to make sure all our needs are fulfilled for that day. Life can become a rat race, as we labor to make enough money to pay our "daily" bills.

No God-Given Daily Bread
Give us today: All the people who haven't allowed God to be their heavenly Father are responsible for all their needs every day of their lives. If they are going to get anything for that day, it is going to have to come through their own efforts. There usually isn't enough hours in a day for them to reach their goals. Even those who are rich are driven by deep desires for more. They can't hoard

enough money to make them happy; and they can't spend enough money to satisfy the craving in their heart.

Everyone Is Hunting For Joy And Happiness

Praying For A Change Of Daily Source

Different people pursue joy and happiness in different ways; but, everyone wants to be happy. Most people pursue these two things by earning money so they can buy the things they THINK will make them happy. If you choose to pray this portion of this prayer, you will be asking God to start directing you into HIS SYSTEM for getting your daily needs met, and, for solving your problem with getting joy and happiness.

Starting Your Day The Right Way

If you are willing to give God permission, He will place joy and happiness in you before your day begins. You will be happy all day long no matter what is going on in your life and the world around you. Your day will have what everyone is seeking without you having to pursue it. Then God will show you a plan for getting your daily needs met without having to hurt yourself, your family, your friends, your business associates, or the strangers you cross paths with.

Getting Your Daily Goals Changed

Once you allow God to fill your heart, mind, and life with joy and happiness, from that moment on, you will be getting your needs met. And, it won't be because you are trying to get them met so you can be happy. God will help you get your needs met and will bless and prosper you. However, you will already be filled with joy and happiness independent of all those blessings. This joy and happiness will get you on the right path for being able to address your difficulties with life in a very positive way.

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors

I try not to hurt people

We Couldn't Stop Sinning

You, like all the rest of us humans, have done things that have hurt people. In some cases you didn't mean to, in others you did. There have been times when you couldn't identify with other's situations and you said and did things that damaged them. There have been times when you were insensitive to their needs and problems. They tried to reach out to you and you couldn't or wouldn't help; God calls this behavior sin. We have all contracted this spiritual disease of sin.

Lacking The Power To Stop Sinning

We hurt people because we are damaged or infected ourselves; part of the problems you are having with life are coming because of this damage from this infection. God understands that we can't help ourselves. He knows we are going to continue to hurt people because we have all contracted the spiritual disease of sin. He knows that, if left alone untreated, sin is going to keep on making us worse. No matter how hard we try, we are going to mistreat ourselves and more and more people.

What Upsets God?

Refusing To Be Cured

God isn't upset with the fact that we sin; the Bible says He responded to our condition of sin with love. At a time when we were all infected with this sin disease, He demonstrated His love for us by dying for our sins. Let Jesus explain to you what He did concerning the deeds you have committed against yourself and others: **1 John 4:9-10 This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world <u>that we might live through Him</u>. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an <u>atoning sacrifice for our sins</u>.**

God says pretty much the same thing in **Romans 5:8: But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were <u>still sinners</u>, Christ died for us.**

Accepting Or Rejecting The Cure Is The Issue

God isn't going to judge ANYONE because they are a sinner; He is going to judge them IF they reject Jesus as their cure. That is because EVERYONE has a way of being set free from sinning. Jesus has provided a way for ALL OF US to stop sinning against ourselves and all the people around us; but, some won't accept the cure. By praying all of these parts of this prayer that Jesus provided, you are accepting the cure; and, by accepting the cure you are making it possible for you to start winning over your difficulties with life.

Workbook Chapter Eight
How To Get The Power-Life

Step Five: Give us today our daily bread.

Life Isn't Just About Being Human

> **Daily Bread:** Jesus, in the process of trying to get my daily needs met, I have done things I am not proud of. Instead of being able to help people around me with their problems and needs, I have spent every waking moment trying to make sure all my needs were fulfilled for that day. My life became a rat race, as I labored to make enough money to pay my "daily" bills.

No God-Given Daily Bread

Give us today: Jesus, all during those times when I wasn't allowing God to be my heavenly Father, I was totally responsible for all my needs every day of my life. If I was going to get anything for that day, it is going to have to come through my own efforts. There usually wasn't enough hours in a day for me to reach my goals. Even if I had been rich, I would have still been driven by deep desires for more. I wouldn't be able to hoard enough money to make me happy; and I wouldn't be able to spend enough money to satisfy the craving in my heart.

Help me see that I need my heavenly Father to start putting me in a place where He is my source. Guide me into Your plan where my daily needs are met while me having plenty of time to care for the needs of others. Help me not spend all my time with financial and monetary issues; help me have time to work on relationships and the needs of others.

Everyone Is Hunting For Joy And Happiness

Praying For A Change Of Daily Source

Jesus, at different times, I have pursued joy and happiness in different ways. I thought it was money, possessions, positions, popularity, power, prestige, or accomplishments. Help me see that none of these things are ever going to give me the happiness and joy I am seeking. I choose to pray this portion of this prayer so I can ask God to start directing me into HIS SYSTEM for getting my daily needs met.

Starting Your Day The Right Way

Jesus, I am ready to give God permission to place joy and happiness in me before my day begins. I am ready to give up my belief that money, possessions, positions, popularity, power, prestige, or accomplishments will make me happy. I choose Your way for me to be happy all day long no matter what is going on in my life and the world around me. Let my day have what everyone is seeking without me having to pursue it.

Getting Your Daily Goals Changed

Jesus, show me that once I allow God to fill my heart, mind, and life with joy and happiness, from that moment on, I will be getting my needs met. And, it won't be because I am trying to get them met so I can be happy. God will help me get my needs met and will bless and prosper me. However, I will already be filled with joy and happiness independent of all those

blessings. Let this joy and happiness get me on the right path for being able to address my difficulties with life in a very positive way.

Allowing God To Be Your Daily Source

If you are willing to start letting God influence you as to which job you will take, what positions you will accept, and how much time you will spend working, then pray these words: "Give us today our daily bread."

Then pray: "Give me today my daily bread."

Step Six: Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors

It's A Two-Way Street

Forgive us our debts: Jesus, teach me that with Your principle of forgiveness, I am facing two issues:

- **Forgive us our debts:** First, I am asking God to forgive me for all the wrong, bad, and evil things I have EVER done to myself and others whether I did them on purpose or accidently.

- **As we also have forgiven our debtors:** Second, I am asking You for the power to forgive ALL those who have hurt me by doing wrong, bad, or evil things to me. Help me use Your power-forgiveness so it WILL NOT be based on whether or not they did it to me on purpose or accidently.

Making A List

As we also have forgiven our debtors: Jesus, bring into my mind people that have done hurtful things to me. Help me be willing to forgive ALL those who have hurt me; help me spend time asking You to help me use Your power-forgiveness to forgive each and every one of them. Then as I go about my life, if another issue comes into my mind, help me to ask You to give me Your power-forgiveness to forgive them as well. Empower me to use this forgiveness method for the rest of my life.

A Lack Of Forgiveness Hurts Us

Jesus, as this study takes me into additional Scriptures that follow this prayer, help me understand how important it is to forgive all who have hurt me or cheated me. Even though it may not make any sense to me right now, help me see that some of my difficulties with life may be coming from a problem with forgiveness.

Debts

A Debt Is Any Sin

Jesus, teach me that the word "debt" is being used in the Bible to describe all the things that I have done to hurt and cheat people and all the things people have done to hurt and cheat me. Help me understand that it is also talking about all the money and things people owe me that they aren't able to repay.

Forgiveness Sets You Free

Show me that if I pray the words **"Forgive us our debts,"** and then pray **"Forgive me my debts,"** God will forgive me of all my past, present, and future sins, shortcomings, failures, mistakes, misdeeds, and debts. Every wrong, bad, or evil thing I have ever done, are doing, and will do against myself and those around me WILL be forgiven by God. But, it will only be done, if I ask Jesus to forgive me by using these words. And, it will only be done, if I do the same for those who have, are, or will sin against me.

A Life Of Forgiving Debts

Jesus, some people have said, are saying, or will say things to me that they should apologize for. In other words, they OWE me an apology. Others OWE me money or things they have taken or borrowed from me. Teach me the principle that if they can pay me back, I am to let them. But, if they can't, I am to forgive the debt. If they can apologize for all the bad things they have done to me, I am to let them. If they can't or won't, I am to use Your power-forgiveness to forgive them. Help me understand why I am to use this system. Reveal to me that, if I can't or won't forgive others, God won't forgive me.

We Owed A Big Debt

Think Of It This Way

Jesus, You had to give Your life in order for me to be able to be forgiven of all my debts (sins). If there had been any other way, God would have done it and protected You, His Son; but, there was no other way. With my little brain I may think I could have found some other way. I might think that I didn't need Your sacrificial death. But, if God, Who knows everything, decided there was no other way for my spiritual disease to be cured, then there was no other way; help me to totally accept that fact.

Jesus, since You paid such a heavy price for me to be forgiven, it is only fair that You are asking me to forgive others of the debts and sins they have created and done against me. If I need more time to pray for the strength and desire to forgive others, help me take the time I need to get Your power-forgiveness as I can truly forgive everyone.

You Being Totally Set Free From
All Your Past, Present, And Future Sins

If you are ready, then go ahead and pray this portion of the prayer. Say: "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." And then say: "Forgive me my debts, as I also have forgiven my debtors."

Textbook Chapter Nine
How To Get The Power-Life

The Doors Into God's Eternal Kingdom

And lead us not into temptation

Learning Things The Hard Way

Learning About Free Will

And lead us not: We are asking God to take leadership in our life. We are asking Him to not allow us to go into areas that would cause us to sin. Since God is a good God, why would we need to ask Him to not lead us in the direction of temptation? God isn't like Satan; He doesn't make us do His will. He honors our God-given free will and will allow us to go places He doesn't want us to go.

Thinking We Know What Is Best

There are two ways for people to learn life lessons from Jesus. The best way is for us to give Him permission to teach us the things we need to know without us having to learn the hard way. When we want a certain job, a certain deal, a certain relationship with a certain person, a certain house, a certain car, a certain amount of income, etc., we may find ourselves insisting that God LET us go in that direction.

God Doesn't Want You Led Into Temptation

When God "leads" us into temptation, He isn't wanting us to be tempted; He isn't tempting us; He doesn't even want to be "leading" us into temptation. It is a moment where God "lets" us go there; BUT, if we insist on going there, we will go under His supervision and LEADERSHIP.

Learning A Painful Lesson

We don't lose our relationship with Him; we don't get turned back over to Satan; we remain in our relationship with our heavenly Father, but, we are being taught a very important lesson about the incredible knowledge, foreknowledge about the future, understanding, and wisdom of God. If we yield to Jesus' training during these times of our rebellion, we will learn the hard way that God was resisting our decision for a VERY good reason.

Learning The Best Way

Some of us are pretty hard headed. We have to learn some things by going out and committing sins and paying the consequences. But, there is a much better way of handling our rebellious attitude. When we find ourselves struggling with doing things God's way, all we have to do is take it to Jesus and ask for His power to help us do it God's way. He will give us the power and the wisdom to avoid having to learn the hard way.

We Have To Be Able To Be Led

There Are A Lot Of Things We Don't Know

God wants us to have a teachable attitude so He can just tell us things. He would like for us to take His new training information and start praying and asking for the power to be able to get it into our lives. But, because we come into this relationship with God and don't completely trust Him yet, we do need to pray this part of this prayer.

God Honors Our Free Will

God has committed Himself to honoring our decisions. He is determined to maintain our God-given freedom of will. So, He allows us to be led into a tough situation where the temptations to sin and do wrong are strong. God, Himself will never tempt us to sin. However, He will allow us to go our

own way for a time while He makes sure we don't get tempted and not have a way out. Let's see what being led into temptation under supervision looks like.

God Honors Our Free Will
1 Cor 10:13 (NIV) No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. God will make sure it isn't some strange, unique temptation that no one has ever seen before; He will remain faithful to you; He won't let it be overwhelming; and, He will always provide you a way out. But, if you will pray this part of this prayer and get Jesus' power, you will be able to avoid most of them.

Temptation

Get Jesus' Power To Not Yield
The temptation to do the wrong, bad, or evil things is strong inside us. When we yield to temptation, addictive pleasures come our way. We get pleasure from simple wrong, bad, or evil things such as talking about someone or bawling them out. It is hard to explain why we get pleasure out of hurting people's reputations or feelings. But, it can al be traced back to the spiritual disease of sin.

Some aspects of the sin disease pushes us toward making ourselves look good at other's expense, while other sins actually involve us hurting ourselves. For example, drug and alcohol abuse tear away at our body and brain. Why we would sin against our body and hurt our own life is quite a puzzle. We need this prayer to help keep us from hurting ourselves and others.

But deliver us from the evil one

Satan Used To Control You
The evil one, Satan: This is a transfer of control; you are praying for a deliverance from Satan's control over you and your life. By accepting Jesus as your Savior, Lord, and King of your life. By doing this you are being set free from your old god, boss, lord, and tyrant. You aren't just getting Jesus, you are being set free from a control that way not honoring your God-given free will. Satan, the evil one, was tempting you, pushing you, deceiving you, addicting you, and creating lifestyle habits that you couldn't control.
Satan Can't Control You But, He Can Tempt You

Deliver us from the evil one: This deliverance has two parts to it:

- First, it is a prayer for a deliverance from his control. You are inviting Jesus to drive Satan out of your mind and heart where he has been luring, driving, misleading, and deceiving you. You are asking for Jesus to un-train you concerning who is now in control of your life. You now belong to Jesus; you no longer are under Satan's power. He can't force you to do anything you don't want to do. Jesus is available to you anytime you want Him to bring control, power, and deliverance to you.

- Second, you are making this prayer a daily issue. You are asking Jesus to deliver you from those things Satan tries to tempt you with. You are asking for Jesus' power, training, and relationship so you and He can work together to defeat all efforts of Satan against you.

Satan Has The Right To Tempt You

Your Battle Isn't Against You

The evil one, Satan: Most of the pressure you are experiencing to do bad, unloving things to yourself and the people around you comes from the evil one, Satan. Not only that, most of the bad things that happen to you circumstantially come from him. The bad "luck," difficult circumstances, and temptations to sin typically come from him.

Satan Doesn't Come As Himself

Thoughts and feelings pop up in your mind and heart that feel like they are self-generated. You can think and feel things that are not like you; anger, hatred, frustration, jealousy, covetousness, greed, and all kinds of other wrong, bad, or evil things. But, unless you yield to them, they never actually were a part of you. Those who don't realize that these "flash" temptations that pop up in their mind and hearts are not coming from themselves.

You Are About To Be Ready To Start Trying Christianity Out

You Are Becoming A Child Of God!

As you pray the prayers in your workbook you will have just asked your heavenly Father to make you His child and a citizen in His Kingdom. He will be ready to start answering your prayers as you begin your life as a Christian. This will be a time for you to try it all out and see if you want to become a permanent member of His family and Kingdom.

Workbook Chapter Nine
How To Get The Power-Life

The Steps To Being Born Into God's Kingdom

Step Seven: And lead us not into temptation

Learning Things The Hard Way

Learning About Free Will

And lead us not: Jesus, help me ask God to take leadership in my life. Help me also ask Him to not allow me to go into things that would cause me to sin. Since God is a good God, I need You to help me understand why I would need to ask Him to not lead me in the direction of temptation. Make it clear to me that God isn't like Satan; He doesn't make me do His will. He honors my God-given free will and will allow me to go places He doesn't want me to go.

Thinking We Know What Is Best

Jesus, since there are two ways for me to learn life lessons from You, help me choose the best one. Teach me that the best way is for me to give You permission to teach me the things I need to know without me having to learn the hard way. When I want a certain job, a certain deal, a certain relationship with a certain person, a certain house, a certain car, a certain amount of income, etc., I may find myself insisting that God LET me go in that direction.

God Doesn't Want You Led Into Temptation

Jesus, teach me that when God "leads" me during a time when I take myself into temptation, He isn't wanting me to be tempted; He isn't tempting me; He isn't even wanting to have to "LEAD" me while I am in there. It is a moment where God does allow me to insist on going there. BUT, because I am His child and pray this part of this prayer on a regular basis, I will NOT go back into Satan's total control. I will go there under God's rules, limits, and discipline. I have opened the door to Satan; but, God limits his control over me; and, God uses this time to discipline me.

Learning A Painful Lesson

Jesus, I am thankful that I don't lose my relationship with God, if I think I know what is best for me; I don't get turned back over to Satan. Instead my heavenly Father disciplines me during these times. I am taught a very important lesson about the incredible knowledge, foreknowledge about the future, understanding, and wisdom of God. If I yield to the training during these times of my rebellion, I will learn the hard way that God was resisting my decision for a VERY good reason.

Learning The Best Way

Jesus, sometimes I get pretty hard headed. Sometimes I have to learn things by going out and committing sins and paying the consequences. But, teach me that there is a much better way of handling my rebellious attitude. When I find myself struggling with doing things God's way, help me realize that all I have to do is take it to You and ask for Your power to help me do it God's way. You will give me the power and the wisdom to avoid having to learn the hard way.

We Have To Be Able To Be Led

There Are A Lot Of Things We Don't Know

Jesus, help me see that God wants me to have a teachable attitude so He can just tell me things. He would like for me to take His new training information and start praying and asking for the power to be able to get it into my life. But, because I come into this relationship with God and don't completely trust Him yet, help me accept the fact that I do need to pray this part of this prayer.

God Honors Our Free Will

Jesus, I am thankful that God has committed Himself to honoring my decisions. I am glad that He is determined to maintain my God-given freedom of will. In order for me to be human and not a slave or a robot, He allows me to be led into a tough situation where the temptations to sin and do wrong are strong. Teach me that God, Himself will never tempt me to sin. However, He will allow me to go my own way for a time. During this time He makes sure I don't get tempted and not have a way out. Let me see what being allowed to go into temptation under supervision looks like.

God Disciplines Those Who Want It

No temptation has seized you <u>except what is common to man</u>. And <u>God is faithful</u>; He will not <u>let you be tempted beyond what you can bear</u>. But when you are tempted, <u>He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it</u> (1 Cor 10:13). Jesus, help me understand that God will make sure the temptation I yield to won't be some strange, unique

temptation that no one has ever seen before; He will remain faithful to me; He won't let it be overwhelming; and, He will always provide me a way out. But, if I will pray this part of this prayer and get Jesus' power, I will be able to avoid most of them.

Temptation

Get Jesus' Power To Not Yield In The First Place

Jesus, help me see that the temptation to do wrong, bad, or evil things is strong inside me. When I yield to temptation, addictive pleasures come my way. I even get pleasure from simple wrong, bad, or evil things. I get pleasure out simple things such as talking about someone or bawling them out. It is hard to explain why I get pleasure out of hurting people's reputations or feelings. But, it can all be traced back to the spiritual disease of sin. Help me resist all of these temptations so I don't have to learn things the hard way.

Get Jesus' Power To Resist The Motivation

Jesus, some aspects of the sin disease pushed me toward making myself look good at other's expense. Some aspects of the sin disease actually involve me hurting myself. Help me see that things like drug and alcohol abuse tear away at my body and brain. Why I would sin against my own body and hurt my own life is quite a puzzle. Make it clear to me that I need this prayer to help keep me from hurting myself and others.

Asking God To Heal Your Rebellion

If you are ready to be set free from yielding to these and other temptations to hurt yourself and those around you, then pray this portion of this prayer. Say: "Lead us not into temptation." Then say: "Lead me not into temptation."

Step Eight: But deliver us from the evil one

Satan Used To Control You

The evil one, Satan: Jesus, teach me that this part of Your prayer is me praying for a transfer of control. I am praying for a deliverance from Satan's control over me and my life. By accepting You as my Savior, Lord, and King of my life, I am doing this to be set free from my old god, boss, lord, and tyrant. Show me that I am not just getting You, I am being set free from a control that will not honor my God-given free will. Satan, the evil one, was tempting me, pushing me, deceiving me, addicting me, and creating lifestyle habits that I couldn't control.

Now That You Are Joining Jesus, Satan Can't Control You; But, He Can Still Tempt You

Deliver us from the evil one: Jesus, help me understand that this deliverance has two parts to it:

- First, it is a prayer for a deliverance from Satan's control over me. I am inviting You to drive Satan out of my mind and heart where he has been luring, driving, misleading, and deceiving me. I am asking for You to un-train me concerning who is now in control of my life. When I pray this part of this prayer I will belong to You; I will no longer be under Satan's power. He won't be able to force me to do anything I don't want to do. You will be available to me anytime I want You to bring control, power, and deliverance to me.

- Second, I am making this prayer a daily practice. I am asking You to deliver me from those things Satan tries to tempt me with all during my day. I am asking for Your power, training, and relationship so You and I can work together to defeat all efforts of Satan against me.

Satan Has The Right To Tempt You

Your Battle Isn't Against You

The evil one, Satan: Jesus, help me understand that most of the pressure I am experiencing to do bad, unloving things to myself and the people around me comes from the evil one, Satan. Not only that, but, most of the bad things that happen to me circumstantially come from him. The bad "luck," difficult circumstances, and temptations to sin typically come from him.

Satan Doesn't Come As Himself

Jesus, teach me that thoughts and feelings pop up in my mind and heart that feel like they are self-generated. Teach me that even after I become a Christian, I can still think and feel things that You are against. Satan can still cause me to think and feel anger, hatred, frustration, jealousy, covetousness, greed, lust, and all kinds of other wrong, bad, or evil things. It can seem like I am still under Satan's control.

It All Has To Do With Power

Jesus, make it clear to me that the difference between being born again and not being born again is, I will no longer have to yield to those things Satan tempts me with; they are no longer a part of me. They are no longer MY thoughts and feelings; they are coming from outside of me. They aren't what I think and feel; they are thoughts and feelings Satan is trying to get me to accept.

Jesus, help me realize that these "flash" temptations that pop up in my mind and heart are not coming from me; they are temptations that You will give me the power to resist. All I will have to do is pray this part of this prayer and You will give me the power to resist.

Asking For Two Types Of Deliverance:

If you want the two aspects of deliverance, then go ahead and pray this portion of the prayer. Say: "Deliver us from the evil one." Then say: "Deliver me from the evil one."

Jesus, teach me that every time I pray this, I am asking God to not only deliver ME but to deliver all the other people on earth from Satan's control over their lives. If they will receive Your answer to my prayer, their life will become as meaningful and blessed as my is.

You Are Now Ready To Start Trying Christianity Out

You Are Now A Child Of God!

Congratulations! Through this prayer from Jesus, you have just accepted Jesus as your Savior, Lord, and King. And, you have asked your heavenly Father to make you His child and a citizen in His Kingdom. He is now ready to start answering all your other prayers as you begin your life as a new Christian. This will be a time for you to try it all out and see if you want to become a permanent member of His family and Kingdom.

Don't Stop Studying

Jesus has helped us commit to helping you experience all the blessings and provisions of God. You will discover that new power will come inside you as you face your difficulties with life and other things. Your victories over your struggles with life will all come from your success with spiritual principles. The main problems you will run into concerning these spiritual principles have been covered in Jesus' parable of the sower that tossed seeds out on four types of soil conditions. They represented the four reactions people have to God's good news about His Kingdom.

If you need to go back to **"How To GET The Power-Life" Week One** and read over them again, it might be a good idea. As you run into other problems, Jesus will be providing you with very important resources on this website. If you continue to move forward in these studies, Jesus will have you ready to defeat those things that come your way. Follow Jesus' guidelines that we are providing you for getting the help you need.

Textbook Chapter Ten
How To Get The Power-Life

Being Born Again So You Can Live

Taking Your First Spiritual Breath

It isn't enough to get a baby down the birth canal. If they aren't going to be "born dead," they must immediately start breathing. They have been connected to an umbilical cord and their mother has been doing most of the work for them. Now, they are going to have to start doing some of these things on their own. This is the case with you; Jesus has been taking care of all your spiritual oxygen, food, waste removal, heat, and protection. It is now time for you to take on some responsibility.

Two Life Requirements

If your new birth is going to be a CONTINUING success, then you will have to use your new spiritual equipment so you can STAY alive. Here are your first two life-continuing assignments:
Rom 10:8-10 But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That

1. **if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and**

2. **believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead,**

you WILL be saved.

Two Parts To Being Born Again

Praying Matthew 6:9-13 Makes You Alive And Forms You

You WILL be saved: That means you WILL be born again! But, didn't you already get born again, when you prayed Jesus' prayer? Yes, praying Jesus' prayer was like a baby coming alive in the womb and being formed into a baby ready to be born. Healthy babies don't come alive at birth; they must become a living being before birth. They are being taken care of and kept alive while in the womb; then they have to go down the birth canal and "be born."

Jesus' prayer made you alive, formed you into a new child of God, and then got you ready for the second stage of your being born again. It was like a baby coming down the birth canal, we call it being born and act like it was the moment they came alive; but, it was actually alive in the womb; but, it was kept alive through an umbilical cord; however, at birth, that umbilical cord gets cut.

Obeying Romans 10:9-10 Starts You Breathing

When a baby is born, it loses its vital supply from its mother through the umbilical cord. So, one of the first things we have to do after birth is get the baby breathing; that is true of being born again. By doing what Romans 10:9-10 tells you to do and use your mouth to say, out loud, **"Jesus is Lord** and I accept Him as my Lord, **"** that is you breathing IN your first breath of spiritual air.

If you hadn't prayed all of those parts of Jesus' prayer, you wouldn't be alive and formed into a child of God. And, you wouldn't pass down the spiritual birth canal ready to BE SAVED or BORN again through Romans 10:9-10. If you don't yield to it, you will fail to continue to live. Now that you are born again, you must start "breathing" in the spirit realm.

Starting To LIVE As A Child Of God
Once Jesus gets your spiritual lungs working by taking IN spiritual air, He has to get you to "breath" OUT. So, God requires you not only confess that Jesus is Lord (breathing in), you must BELIEVE He raised Jesus from the dead (breathing out). It is like you breathing in air and breathing out carbon dioxide rather than using your mother's umbilical cord to get your physical needs met.

As with all illustrations, the example breaks down at some point. As a SPIRITUAL baby, you will be given much more time learning how to breath, eat, cry, get your spiritual organs, limbs, and muscles working than a physical baby gets. Your spiritual umbilical cord stays connected much longer. Later you will be taken into an example of a grape vine with its branches. In John 15:1-17, Jesus will show you how to stay connected to Him. So, we don't want to over work this baby-birth illustration. But, let's use it as much as is possible so we can understand what is happening to you.

The Two Aspects Of Spiritual Birth

Born But Not Yet Functioning
Now, let's allow Jesus to explain to us how these two aspects of spiritual birth work. First, you prayed all the parts of Jesus' prayer; you did this as you were being taught what each part of the prayer meant; and, it was being explained to you what it was you were asking for. That got you down the spiritual birth canal into the spirit realm. You are NOW "existing" in the spirit realm; but, Jesus must get you "functioning" in the spirit realm. Just like a doctor or birth attendant has to do what it takes to get the new "born" baby to start breathing and functioning on its own, Jesus must do this for you.

Born So You Can Start Functioning
NOW, you are about to breath in and out your first spiritual breaths; and you are about to take in your first spiritual power (nourishment). You breath in and out as **you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead (Rom 10:9).** AND, you take in spiritual food by continuing these studies.

If a human baby gets born but doesn't start breathing it is said to be "born dead." And, if it doesn't start taking in nourishment in his new environment, it dies. Romans 10:9-10 keeps you from being "born dead" in your spiritual birth process. And, Second Timothy chapter 2 and verse 15 (2 Tim 2:15) helps you start taking in nourishment on your own. **2 Tim 2:15 (AKJV) Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.** You are NOW to start allowing Jesus to help you read (eat) and understand (digest) those things in the Bible. But, for now, let's continue with your responsibility to breath.

This Is A Successful Birth
For

1. **It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and**

2. **It is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.**

This is telling you what the two main things are that keep you alive in the spirit realm. You are a new born again baby as a child of God; it is up to you to start functioning as one. Your assignments are few and simple; but, to a certain degree, like a new born baby, there ARE some things YOU MUST start doing to continue to live.

We Have A Healthy New Born!
If you take these spiritual steps, you will start interacting with your new way of life. You will be using your spiritual equipment like a baby uses it new body to breath, eat, cry, digest food, and start using its muscles. Just like all these things are VITAL for the new born baby, Romans 10:9-10 and 2 Timothy 2:15 are VITAL to your new birth.

How To Believe That God Raised Jesus From The Dead

Breathing IN Isn't Enough
It is with your heart that you believe and are justified: It is impossible to be a Christian, if you don't believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. It is much simpler for a person to say with their mouth that Jesus is Lord and that He is their Lord. But, it is a little harder for them to **believe in** their **heart that God raised** Jesus **from the dead.** So, let's spend some time working on breathing OUT in the spirit realm.

You MUST Believe Jesus Is Alive
All of your power and success in the Christian life is going to come through Jesus. Your ability to resist the difficulties with life, all your hope for eternal life, and your citizenship in the Kingdom of God are based on life after death. If God didn't raise Jesus from the dead, then you have no reason whatsoever to believe that you will be raised from the dead. To you, death would mean you cease to exist; and, that is NOT what happens.

Christianity Isn't A Dead Religion
You can't call on a dead God. **Rom 10:13 (NIV) For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."** That means that when you call on Him, He will answer you. He will also empower you to live the life of one of His children and a citizen of His Kingdom. Later it will be easy for you to know that Jesus has been raised from the dead. You will experience all kinds of miracles from Him that will PROVE He is alive. But for now you just need to consider a few truths about human life.

Learning Some Spiritual Basics

Our Spirit Can't Die

We are all going to live forever somewhere. Our bodies die; but the spirit person, that is the real you, is going to keep on living. Jesus never ceased to exist; even though His body died on a cross, He, as a Spirit being, continued to live; you can't kill a spirit. All you are being asked to believe is that the Father put Jesus' Spirit back in His body. You aren't being asked to believe that Jesus ceased to exist and the Father made Him exist again.

Can you believe that God raised Jesus from the dead? If you can, that will be like a new born baby breathing OUT. These two requirements in Romans 10:9-10 are HOW you breath in spiritual air and breath out those things that are hurting you.

Can you believe that after Jesus' body was killed, God was able to bring it back to life by putting Jesus' Spirit back in it?

God Created Everything

For us who now believe that God can do anything, it is an easy concept to believe; it has become automatic for us to breath. Since we know Jesus created the universe and everything in it, we have not doubted Jesus' resurrection ever again. We have experienced so many miracles and have had such an intimate, close relationship with Him that we KNOW He is alive and doing His powerful work among us.

Just Keep Breathing And Eating

But, for you to eventually become a permanent Christian, you have to be confessing with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord; and you have to keep believing that God raised Him from the dead. You must do this as a normal routine in order for you to be and stay saved for eternity.

If you find yourself struggling with the two concepts in Romans 10:9-10, don't give up. Jesus will be helping you to keep growing spiritually; He will do this so you will be able to experience miracles in your issues with life. As you experience these miracles, you will grow in your knowledge that Jesus is alive because God raised Him from the dead. You will soon KNOW for a fact that Jesus is your living Savior and is hearing and answering your prayers.

Where Do I Go From Here?

What Are Jesus And His Mature Christian's Responsibilities?

Now that you are a new BORN again Christian, Jesus will be helping you keep applying yourself to study and making changes in your relationships. He will be helping you be healed from your problems with life. He will be feeding you so you can be powerful and have the necessary building blocks from that food so you are helped to grow spiritually. His objective is to keep parenting you until you grow into a mature, adult child of God.

What Are A Baby's Responsibilities?
A baby can't just breath once or eat once; they have to accept the responsibility of continuing to breath and eat. And, if they become aware that something is going wrong in their life, it is their responsibility to let us know about it (cry). If food is presented to them, they are responsible to do what it takes to take advantage of it (eat). It is their responsibility to start using their muscles to move the various parts of their body.

As a new born again child of God, these are all your responsibilities as well. You are to keep "breathing" by obeying Romans 10:9-10, "eating" by obeying 2 Timothy 2:15, which is you continuing to study, and obeying many more Scriptures that will help you use all your spiritual muscles.

What Are Your Responsibilities?
Jesus has caused spiritual growth classes to be prepared for you. But, it is your responsibility to use the power you now have through salvation to take advantage of them (eat). It will be your responsibility to let the people around you know that you are now a Christian (spiritual breathing). There will be things Jesus will help you be willing to give up; and, those around you will need to know why. There will be things Jesus will help you be willing to start living; and, those around you will need to know that you are now following the teachings of Jesus.

Workbook Chapter Ten
How To Get The Power-Life

Being Born Again So You Can Live

Taking Your First Spiritual Breath

Jesus, help me understand this spiritual parallel; it is showing me that it isn't enough to get a baby down the birth canal. If they aren't going to be "born dead," they must immediately start breathing. They have been connected to an umbilical cord; and, their mother has been doing most of the work for them. Now, they are going to have to start doing some of these things on their own. This is the case with me; You have been taking care of all my spiritual oxygen, food, waste removal, heat, and protection. It is now time for me to take on some responsibility.

Two Life Requirements

Jesus, help me understand that if my new birth is going to be a CONTINUING success, then I will have to use my new spiritual equipment so I can STAY alive. Help me accept my first two life-continuing assignments: **Rom 10:8-10 But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: That**

1. **If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord,"** Jesus, I confess right now that You are Lord and that You are my Lord.

2. If you **believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead,** Jesus, I believe God raised You from the dead.

you WILL be saved. Jesus, I believe that You have forgiven me of all my past, present, and future sins. I am now a new creation in You.

Two Parts To Being Born Again

Praying Matthew 6:9-13 Makes You Alive And Forms You

You WILL be saved: Jesus, this verse in Romans 10:9 means that I WILL be born again! But, didn't I already get born again, when I prayed Your prayer? Help me see that it is a two part birth. Show me that praying Your prayer was like a baby coming alive in the womb and being formed into a baby ready to be born. Help me be aware that healthy babies don't come alive at birth; they must become a living being before birth. They are being taken care of and kept alive while in the womb; then they have to go down the birth canal and "be born."

Your prayer made me alive, formed me into a new child of God, and then got me ready for the second stage of my being born again. It was like when a baby comes down the birth canal, we call it being born and act like that was the moment they came alive; but, help me understand that it was actually alive in the womb; but, it was being kept alive through an umbilical cord; however, at birth, that umbilical cord gets cut. Help me be ready for this spiritual birth that is similar to a natural, human birth.

Obeying Romans 10:9-10 Starts You Breathing

Jesus, when a baby is born, it loses its vital supply from its mother through the umbilical cord. So, one of the first things we have to do after birth is get the baby breathing. Help me see that this is true of me being born again. When I do what Romans 10:9-10 tells me to do and I use my mouth to say, out loud, that **"Jesus is Lord"** and that I accept You as my Lord, <u>that is me breathing IN my first breath of spiritual air</u>.

Make it clear to me that if I hadn't prayed all of those parts of Your prayer, I wouldn't be alive and formed into a child of God. And, I wouldn't pass down the spiritual birth canal ready to BE SAVED or born again through Romans 10:9-10. But, if I don't yield to it, I will fail to continue to live. Help me understand that now that I am born again, I must start "breathing" as a spirit being in the spirit realm.

Starting To LIVE As A Child Of God

Jesus, once You get my spiritual lungs working by taking IN spiritual air, You must get me "breathing" OUT. So to do this, God requires me to not only confess that You are Lord (breathing in), I must BELIEVE He raised You from the dead (breathing out). It is like me breathing in air and breathing out carbon dioxide rather than using my mother's umbilical cord to get my physical needs met.

Help me realize that with all illustrations, the example breaks down at some point. As a spiritual baby, I will be given much more time learning how to breath, eat, cry, get my spiritual organs, limbs, and muscles working than a physical baby gets. Help me accept the fact that my spiritual umbilical cord stays connected much longer. I will actually be taken into an example of a grape vine with its branches. In John 15:1-17, You will show me how to stay connected to You. So, I don't want to over work this baby-birth illustration. But, help me use it as much as is possible so I can understand what is happening to me.

The Two Aspects Of Spiritual Birth

Born But Not Yet Functioning

Jesus, explain to me how these two aspects work (Matthew 6:9-13 and Romans 10:9-10) in my spiritual birth. Show me that I had to first pray all the parts of Your prayer; show me that I had to do this as I was being taught what each part of the prayer meant; and, show me that it had to be explained to me what it was I was asking for. Teach me that, that first process made me alive, formed me, and got me down the spiritual birth canal into the spirit realm.

Teach me that, the Matthew 6:9-13 procsss has made it where I am NOW "existing" in the spirit realm; but, You must get me "functioning" in the spirit realm through Romans 10:9-10. Just like a doctor or birth attendant has to do what it takes to get the new "born" baby to start breathing and functioning on its own, You must do this for me through this next process.

Born So You Can Start Functioning

Jesus, teach me how to breath in and out as my first spiritual breaths; AND, help me take in my first spiritual power (nourishment). Teach me that I breath in and out as I **confess with** my **mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in** my **heart that God raised** You **from the dead (Rom 10:9),** AND, that I take in spiritual food by continuing these studies.

If a human baby gets born but doesn't start breathing it is said to be "born dead." And, if it doesn't start taking in nourishment in its new environment, it dies. Teach me that Romans 10:9-10 keeps me from being "born dead" in my spiritual birth process.

Teach me that Second Timothy chapter 2 and verse 15 (2 Tim 2:15) helps me start taking in nourishment on my own. Help me obey **2 Tim 2:15 (AKJV): Study to show yourself approved to God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.** Show me that I am NOW to start allowing You to help me read (eat) and understand (digest) those things in the Bible. But, for now, help me continue learning about my responsibility to breath.

This Is A Successful Birth

Jesus,

1. **It is with** my **heart that** I **believed and** was **justified, and**

2. **It is with** my **mouth that** I **confessed and was saved.**

Help me completely understand that these ARE the two main things that ARE keeping me alive in the spirit realm. I am a new born again baby as a child of God; it is up to me to start functioning as one. My assignments are few and simple; but, to a certain degree, like a new born baby, there ARE some things I MUST start doing to continue to live.

We Have A Healthy New Born!

Jesus, teach me that, as I continue to take these spiritual steps, I will be able to start interacting with my new way of life. I will be using my spiritual equipment like a baby uses it new body to breath, eat, cry, digest food, and start using its muscles. Show me that just like all these things are VITAL for the new born baby, Romans 10:9-10 and 2 Timothy 2:15 are VITAL to my new birth.

How To Believe That God Raised Jesus From The Dead

Breathing IN Isn't Enough

It is with your heart that you believe and are justified: Jesus, make it clear to me that it is impossible to be a Christian, if I don't believe that God raised You from the dead. It was much simpler for me to say with my mouth, "Jesus is Lord" and say, "He is my Lord." But, it is a little harder for me to believe in my heart that God raised You from the dead. So, help me spend some time on that.

You MUST Believe Jesus Is Alive

Jesus, show me that all of my power and success in the Christian life are going to come through You. My ability to resist my difficulties with life, all my hope for eternal life, and my citizenship in the Kingdom of God are based on life after death. If God didn't raise You from the dead, then I have no reason whatsoever to believe that I will be raised from the dead. To me, death would mean I cease to exist; and, that is NOT what happens.

Christianity Isn't A Dead Religion

Jesus, help me understand that I can't call on a dead God. Your Word, the Bible says: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (Rom 10:13)." That means that when I call on You, You will answer me. You will also empower me to live the life of one of God's children and a citizen of His Kingdom. Help me know that later it will be easy for me to know that You have been raised from the dead. I will experience all kinds of miracles from You that will PROVE You are alive. But, for now, I just need to allow You to teach me a few truths about human life.

Learning Some Spiritual Basics

Our Spirit Can't Die

Jesus, let me be very clear about the fact that I going to live forever somewhere. My body dies; but the spirit person, which is the real me, is going to keep on living. You never ceased to exist; even though Your body died on a cross, You, as a Spirit being, continued to live; because a spirit can't be killed once it comes into existence. Help me see that I am not being asked to believe that You ceased to exist and the Father made You exist again. Show me that all I am being asked to believe is that my heavenly Father put Your Spirit back in Your body. Help me believe this for the rest of my life.

Jesus, I believe that after Your body was killed, God was able to bring it back to life by putting Your Spirit back in it.

Since I can now believe this, I am like a new born baby breathing OUT. These two requirements in Romans 10:9-10 are HOW I breath IN spiritual air and breath OUT those things that are hurting me. Help me keep breathing IN and OUT these two spiritual principles all day long, everyday of my life.

God Created Everything

Jesus, help me to become one who believes that God can do anything; make it be an easy concept for me to believe. Since I know You created the universe and everything in it, help never doubt Your resurrection ever again. Let me experience so many miracles and have such an intimate, close relationship with You that I KNOW You are alive and doing You powerful work in me.

Just Keep Breathing And Eating

Jesus, teach me that for me to eventually become a permanent Christian, I have to be confessing with my mouth that You are my Lord; and I have to keep believing that God raised You from the dead. I must do this as a normal routine in order for me to be and stay saved for eternity.

If I find myself struggling with the two concepts in Romans 10:9-10, help me never give up. Help me keep growing spiritually; Help me do this so I will be able to experience miracles in my issues with life. As I experience these miracles, I will grow in my knowledge that You are alive because God raised You from the dead. Help me realize I will soon KNOW for a fact that You are my living Savior and are hearing and answering my prayers.

Where Do I Go From Here?

What Are Jesus And His Mature Christian's Responsibilities?

Jesus, now that I am a new BORN again Christian, help me keep applying myself to study and making changes in my relationships. Help me be healed from my problems with life. Keep feeding me so I can be powerful and have the necessary building blocks from that food so I am helped to grow spiritually. Help me cooperate with Your objective to keep parenting me until I grow into a mature, adult child of God.

What Are A Baby's Responsibilities?

Jesus,

- Just like a baby can't just breath once and has to accept the responsibility of continuing to breath, so do I have to continue to breath IN spiritually by telling people that Jesus is Lord and that He is my Lord, and, breath OUT by believing that God raised You from the dead.
- And, if that baby becomes aware that something is going wrong in their life, it is their responsibility to let us know about it (cry); I am responsible for crying out to You in prayer.
- If food is presented to them, they are responsible to do what it takes to take advantage of it (eat); I am responsible to study (spiritual food) and understand (spiritual application).
- It is the baby's responsibility to start using their muscles to move the various parts of their body; I am to start living the Christian life in the best way I possibly can.

Jesus, as a new born again child of God, I accept these as my responsibilities. I accept that I am to keep "breathing" by obeying Romans 10:9-10, keep "eating" by obeying 2 Timothy 2:15, which is me continuing to study, and start obeying many more Scriptures that will help me use all my spiritual muscles.

What Are Your Responsibilities?

Jesus, You have caused spiritual growth classes to be prepared for me. But, it is my responsibility to use the power I now have through salvation to take advantage of them (eat). It will be my responsibility to let the people around me know that I am now a Christian (spiritual breathing). There will be things You will help me be willing to give up; and, those around me will need to know why. There will be things You will help me be willing to start living; and, those around me will need to know that I am now following Your teaching.