How To Be A Christian Through Jesus' POWER



Introduction Into The Power

What Is Christianity?

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Welcome To "The Power Studies" Introduction

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This Is Really Different!

Mat 11:28 (NIV) Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Christianity isn't like what you are probably thinking! It isn't like joining some club where you just become a member. It isn't like reading a self-help book where you are given instructions on how to live life. It isn't like joining a company where there are company policies for you to follow. It is like nothing you have *ever* experienced before. You need an open mind and heart.

Phil 4:19 (NIV) And my God will meet all your needs according to <u>His glorious riches in Christ Jesus</u>. There are some things Jesus requires of you; but, Christianity isn't about what you can do for Him; it is about what He can do for you. He is asking you to bring your **burdens** and issues of life so *He* can use His knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, wisdom, power, and love to help you with them.

Solutions To Problems

Rom 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Everywhere you go, you run into problems and issues. They don't pay you a salary so you can have **rest.** If you are married, they didn't marry you, so they could **meet all your needs**; and your friends aren't your friends to do that either. Even if you go to a seminar that is to help you succeed, they don't join you after the seminar and make sure everything **works for the good of those who** attended the seminar.

Isa 55:8-9 (NIV) "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." Your boss, your spouse, your friends, and your advisors may be smart, but, they aren't this smart. Christianity probably isn't like what you thought. Even when Jesus is against something you are thinking, feeling, saying, or doing, it probably isn't for the reason you think it is.

How Many Times Have You Been Wrong?

Prov 16:25 (NIV) There is a way that seems right to a man, but <u>in the end</u> it leads to death. Have you every thought something was really going to be good for you and it turn out bad? There are a lot of things that can give you every indication that they are the best. But, *in the long run*, they turn out to be the worst. You aren't joining Christianity so you can make God's life better. He wants to show you Who He is and what He has to offer. Sure, He will insist on you treating yourself, other people, and His plans with only good things. But, *in the long run*, you will find out that God knew what He was telling you.

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. Even this requirement isn't likely to be what you think. You probably think Jesus is telling you to use your own power, skills, efforts, abilities, and talents to fulfill this rule. *But,* He isn't! Christianity probably isn't what you think it is.

Consider Three Important Questions

There are three sections in the **"Introduction Into The Power"** book. It is called this because Jesus wants to use it to introduce you into the *way* of getting His power, so you can win over life issues. Even if these subjects don't seem to be addressing what you thought you needed, it is *very* important that you give Jesus a chance to let these subjects prove themselves to you. Millions of people have already found these principles able to give them the power they needed to deal with life. Let Jesus answer three main questions for you, so you can understand Christianity.

This is a very important group of studies where Jesus deals with why you should allow His power-life to empower you. In the first section called, **"Why Become A Christian?"** Jesus uses it to deal with *who* qualifies for the power life with God. In the second section called, **"How Would I Become A Christian?"** He explains *what it takes* for a person to be able to have the power life. In the third section called, **"How Do I Become A Christian Now?"** He shows you *how* you can go about obtaining the power-life. Let Jesus help you with these three important questions.

1. "Why Become A Christian?"

Have you *finally* come to the place where you don't have to be the solution to all of your own problems? Or, are you still getting a lot of joy out of being able to tell people you are a self-made person? Would it provide you enough satisfaction just knowing that you found the answer? Could your esteem and confidence be rewarded adequately, if you started really succeeding in life by discovering Jesus? Jesus is trying to help you see the benefits of His power-life. Power to do what you know you should be doing is the answer to much of success in life. Jesus uses this section in the book to show you what the power-relationship with God is able to do for you.

Jesus also tries to help uninformed Christians see some of the things they are missing. Many are convinced that they know what the power-life is all about. But, in reality they are living a very powerless life. If you are struggling with living those things you know you should be living, if you are failing at things you feel you should be succeeding at, if you are being defeated by things you should be able to defeat, then you should spend time with Jesus in this study and prayer time.

2. "How Would I Become A Christian?"

Why Are You Here?

The life you are living here on earth is just the beginning of your existence. It is to get you ready for a life that never ends; that is what Jesus is talking about when He mentions eternal life. If you were going to die and cease to exist, then you should try to have as much fun and experience as much pleasure as you can. But, if there is eternal life after death, then you need to let Jesus get you ready for it and not neglect what it takes to get there.

Training For Eternity

The life you lived in school wasn't the kind of life you lived all the days of your life. School-life is just a life that is to get you ready for real life. The life you are living now is like school-life; it is just a training that is to get you ready for eternal life. Jesus is telling you about the importance of eternal life to explain why you need to live your current life as a training-life.

Reaching Your Full Potential
This life trains you, gives you experiences, helps you get better and better at certain skills, and can build your resources to their highest level just about the time you get too old to take advantage of them. If you aren't training for eternal life, you may reach your greatest potential at the point where you are about to leave this planet. Once you understand eternal life, it will encourage you to have a lot of faith and hope for your future. Jesus will help you apply yourself now because of how great your future is going to be. Life will take on a whole new meaning, as you learn how much this life influences your eternal future.

3. "How Do I Become A Christian Now?"

What Are You Training For?
It is great to find out how wonderful your eternal future is going to be. However, it is very important to understand *what* you need to be doing to get ready for it. Jesus spends additional time laying out all the benefits you can look forward to after you leave this life. And, He helps you see why you need to apply yourself to getting ready for your eternal future.

What Are You Hunting For?
Jesus isn't just offering you a way to get rid of bad addictions, habits, and life problems, He is offering you a way of life that makes sense. You obtained things and relationships that you thought would make you happy. And, you were happy for a short period of time from those experiences. But, you also found that the happiness, that many of those achievements and successes produced, either wore off or became painful and disappointing experiences.

What Are You Living For?
After you have lived long enough to have tried many different things to help yourself be happy, you start to look back at all your efforts and wonder what life is all about. Is it just about momentary successes, experiences of pleasure, feelings of happiness, and then disappointment and emptiness? Is there a goal, a dream, a plan and purpose for all this? Jesus uses the **"How Do I Become A Christian Now"** study and prayer to answer these and many more questions.

What Are You Reaching For?
Through working with Jesus in these studies and talking to Him through your prayers, you will keep moving into the levels of life success. Each of these three studies build on greater and greater success in your life. Jesus will train and empower you to win, learn how to use these principles for winning over other issues in your life, and learn how to share them with those around you.

It's A Simple Process

If, at any time, you come to the place where you are ready to take the steps into becoming a Christian, it would be good if you had already gone to **wctlc.com** and had obtained the **"How To Become A Christian"** pamphlet. If you will go to the website and select **"I want to know more about Christianity,"** the comments at the top of the next page will have a way for you to get the pamphlet. This **"Introduction Into The Power"** book will eventually provide this information. But, should you realize this is what you really want to do prior to this book showing you how, you will already have the steps available to you.

"Why Become A Christian?" Section One

Chapter One
How Do I Learn About This New Life?

Week One Day One

Getting Your Prayers Answered
Paragraphs that contain prayers in them will be inside boxes. The truth is, you are actually talking to Jesus. He is listening *and responding* to everything one of these prayers. As you finish each day's pages of study and prayer, be looking for Jesus to give you those things you asked for in these prayers. These are vital studies and prayers that are bringing great results for your future.

Honoring Your Wishes
Gen 1:27 (NIV) So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. This gave you a free will from God. This kept you from being a robot or a slave. *So*, working with Jesus is different from the procedures you are used to. You have to be convinced that Jesus is your answer to life. If you don't believe something in the Bible is true, it won't do anything for you or to you, because of your God-given free will. That is why Jesus is doing so much explaining and helping you understand these things.

What Is Prayer?
Prayer tells Jesus you want something. If you are going to receive Jesus' power, provisions, and principles, you *must* ask for them. The reason for this is because, unlike anyone else, Jesus honors your God-given free will. If you *don't* want something Jesus has to offer, all you have to do is *not* ask for it. If you don't ask, Jesus won't give it to you. The procedure for asking Jesus for things is called prayer. You either think it in your mind or ask Him out loud to give you what you need.

How Do I Pray?
Since prayer may be new for you, Jesus won't be throwing you into the deep end of the pool and demand that you swim. He will be providing you with prayers that *could* represent things you would like Him to do for you. After you have read a segment, you will be given a prayer to pray. It will be an opportunity for you to ask Jesus to do those things that you read and wanted. Remember, if you read something you want and don't pray for it, Jesus won't give it to you.

What Do I Pray?
What if you disagree with a prayer? Then skip it. But, you might want to write down a note directing you back to that page, and the paragraph title where the prayer was. As you keep moving forward, you may change your mind and want to come back and pray that prayer. If you agree with the provided prayer, then pray it. If you want to change it in some way, then customize it to fit your desires and life situation. Jesus only responds to those things you pray for.

Tell Me About This New Life

Which Way Should I Go?

Like everyone else, you have probably tried all kinds of ways to make your life better. The big question is, which way should you go to make your life better? When you are dealing with struggles in life, you try everything you can think of and everything your friends suggest.

Here is your first prayer; but, before you pray it, read it and see if you agree with it. If you agree with this prayer, then say: Jesus, help me be willing to give You a chance to show me that You love me more than I love myself. Help me see that You always have my best interest in mind. Show me that You will never give me anything that isn't good for me.

It Must Bring Results

It's like choosing products; everyone thinks their brand is the best. When you start using a certain product, you probably made your decision based on the best advertisement and recommendations from your friends. That is probably what you did in trying to head your life in the right direction. At the end of the day, however, it always comes down to *what works*. Did it *really* improve your life, or, did it fail you? Was it a *permanent* improvement or was it just temporary?

Jesus, this is pretty new for me; I am trying to learn how to talk to You and know You are listening to me. Help me give You the kind of cooperation I have given new products. Help me allow You to show me that You have the answers to my problems, needs, and goals.

It's Not Some New Method

Billions of people, all around the world, have tried this method and found the help they were looking for. Some have been helped more than others; but, all have experienced major changes that improved their lives. That is what you can expect to happen in your life. Jesus not only knows how to help you get your difficulty with life solved, He knows how to help you have a life that is awesome. How can you know? People all around you have tried this new life and have helped multitudes of others get the same powerful life that they are living.

Jesus, billions of people, all around the world, have tried Your methods and found the help they were looking for. Let me be like them and experience major changes that improve my life. Help me start looking for and expecting special things to happen in my life. Jesus, help me get my difficulties with life solved. Then help me get a life that is awesome.

Congratulations!

You have just completed your first day of moving into the power-life. You have prayed those prayers you agreed with; and Jesus will respond to and empower you to live differently in those areas. Jesus will be doing them gradually so you will be able to experience them, evaluate them, and decide whether or not you want to keep them. He will be very careful to not damage, hurt, hinder, or change your God-given free will. Be patient with Him as He works carefully, slowly, gently, and patiently with you. He is honoring your God-given free will.

Chapter Two
What Is Salvation?

Week One Day Two

Introductory Steps
The way into this new life is through an experience called salvation. The big thing is, Jesus has to help you want salvation. And, since salvation is probably something you don't know much about, it will be hard for Him to help you want it. Suppose you want to buy a new coat; there are some steps you are going to have to go through in order to accomplish that. You will have to find stores that sell coats, pick the store you want to shop in first, travel where it is, go into the store, and then find the kind of coats you are interested in.

You don't want to buy a store; but you still have to go to a store to buy a coat. You may not think you want salvation; but, you need to get it in order to get the answers to your issues with life. Inside of the salvation experience are the benefits Jesus provides. It is the "store" where they are.

Jesus, just like I go to a store to buy a coat, show me I need to expose myself to salvation for getting my problems solved and to succeed at life. Help me decide I want salvation and see the need for it. Help me see that I need to get it in order to get the answers to my issues with life.

From Salvation To Healing
You may be going through things you don't understand. There are things people are doing to you that are hurtful. And, there are things you are doing to them that are hurting them. Why do people do these things to each other? There are thoughts and emotions inside you that influence how you treat yourself and other people. Those thoughts and feelings are just waiting for someone to do something to you that you either like or don't like. When that happens, you react.

You face financial, relational, emotional, physical, and spiritual problems that you don't know how to get solved. The problem is, you have those problems because of the "system" you used to *react* to financial, relational, emotional, physical, and spiritual issues. If Jesus helps you *react* differently when you face these things, those problems will go away and better things will come.

Jesus, I am going through things I don't understand. There are things people are doing to me that are hurtful; and there are things I am doing to them that are hurting them. Show me why I and other people do these things to each other. Let me see that You have a way to solve all these problems. Also, help me see that You have a way to make my life much better.

Jesus, I face financial, relational, emotional, physical, and spiritual problems that I don't know how to get solved. Show me that salvation is an experience that has the *power* to get them solved. It is the door I can walk through that opens up the power, the provisions, and the successes that You have to offer me. They will help me *react* to life much differently.

Taking Advantage Of Someone Else's Life
Jesus is taking the information and prayers you prayed yesterday and is building on them. To do that, He is giving you an example, from the Bible, of a person like you. He too was trying to get his life going in the best direction. He was suffering with a lot of problems just like you. And, like you, he decided that his best way to get his problems solved was to go to Jesus!

Jesus, take the changes You made in my life yesterday and add to them. As I move into more of Your training, help me understand why You are teaching them to me. Help me appreciate Your wisdom and compassion. Today, I make my decision to come to You again and let You teach me more about You and what You have to offer.

The Best Decision You Can Ever Make
Like you, a man named Nicodemus, decided to give Jesus a chance to work on his life. He went to see if he could get some answers that would head him in a better direction. This man had been studying all kinds of books and had been following all kinds of people's advice and was still feeling an emptiness down inside him. So, he decided to let Jesus explain what kind of help He was offering. And, like you, him deciding to go to Jesus was the best decision he ever made.

Jesus, help me be like Nicodemus; help me give You a chance to work on my life. Help me check to see if I can get some answers that would head me in a better direction. Like him, I too have been studying all kinds of books and have been following all kinds of people's advice. But, I am still feeling an emptiness down inside. Show me that deciding to come to You is the best decision I can ever make.

Are You Willing To Unlearn Some Things?
Since everything Nicodemus had tried hadn't helped him get the meaning, purpose, and rules to life, he could have given up. Since he had tried very hard to find the answers and had lived a long time, he could have decided that Jesus probably couldn't help him either. *But*, he didn't! He went to Jesus and found out that the problem was because he was looking in the wrong direction.

Jesus, like Nicodemus, those things I have tried haven't helped me get the meaning, purpose, and rules to life; but, help me not give up. I thank You for helping me not make that decision! Jesus, I come to You to help me see that I have been looking in the wrong direction.

Getting Ready To Meet Nicodemus
The record of Nicodemus' life is in the New Testament (the second part of the Bible) in John (the fourth book of the New Testament). His life can really help you see you aren't alone in your search for life's answers. Allow his situation help you see similarities that all humans go through.

Jesus, as I read this event about Nicodemus, help me get the information and meaning that I need for my life. Help me meet him and identify with him. Help me see him as a person who was hurting and confused about life just like I am. Use his example to help me be able to find the answers to my problems too. I want to be open to You, so You can show me Who You are.

Chapter Three
What Is The Difference Between Human Principles And Jesus' Principles?

Week One Day Three

Meet Nicodemus

John chapter 3 verse 1 (John 3:1) Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. This man joined the top religious group available. He really applied himself to that religious system. He determined that if anyone was going to get their needs met, win over life's problems, and succeed, it was going to be him. But, in spite of all his efforts, in spite of all his seeking God, he didn't get the help he needed until he went to Jesus.

Jesus, if Nicodemus did all he did to win at life and it didn't work for him, help me understand that it can happen to me too. Help me not feel bad that I made mistakes in my decisions. Show me that it is typical of everyone. Help me see that we all head in wrong directions and end up with typical results. Show me that I need to come to You for Your power and training.

Human Training VS. Jesus' Training

In many ways, Nicodemus was looking in the right direction. He was looking to God for help. Many don't do that; they live as if there is no God. They aren't atheists; they just don't think about spiritual things. Many around you are taking that approach. You probably have friends like that. They may not know that Jesus caused a Book to be written that explains how life works.

Jesus, help me see that in many ways, looking to God is the right direction. But, at times, my approach to life has been as if there is no God. I am not an atheist; I too haven't thought much about spiritual things. Many around me are taking the same approach. They either don't know or don't care that You caused a Book to be written that explains how life works. Help me get a change of attitude about God, spiritual things, and the Bible.

What Are Life's Rules?

One of the biggest problems with you and those around you is, none of you speak the same language. What if you were playing a sport where every person was playing by their own rules. Each person told you, your truth isn't my truth. You can't know my truth without living in my shoes for a while. That is the game of life you and the people around you are currently playing.

This is the way a lot of people are living life. They are watching people and trying to find out what their rules are. Everyone has different rules; and, you don't know what those rules are. This makes life very frustrating and causes you to keep breaking people's rules. They are approaching life from a different perspective and assuming that everyone is on the same page. But, they aren't! Jesus has a full set of life-rules that will make sense to you *and* to your friends. Once you and your friends start playing by Jesus' rules, it will be amazing how well you all get along.

Jesus, help me see that each person can't just have their own truth. If we are all living life with totally different sets of rules, then every person I meet will be expecting me to address them with rules that I have no idea what they are. I will have rules; and, they have no idea what mine are. Show me that just like the rules of aerodynamics, mathematics, chemistry, and physics have rules that cannot be successfully broken, neither can the rules of relationships and life.

Getting To Know Jesus

Jesus is trying to get everyone to live by the same set of rules. They are the rules that win in life; and, if we all join Him, we will all be on the same page.

The Creator Of The Universe

John 3:2 He [Nicodemus] came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi [teacher], we know You are a teacher Who has come from God. <u>For no one could perform the miraculous signs You are doing if God were not with him</u>." Nicodemus knew something that a lot of people you associate with don't know. He knew God had created the universe and the world you live on. He knew that it was God Who had set the rules for life; and, he was trying to live by those rules.

Jesus, help me realize that Nicodemus knew things that I'm not fully convinced of. He knew God created the universe and the world I live on. He knew God had set the rules for life; and, he was trying to live by them. Give me a clear understanding of these things so I can trust You more. And, let them help me be able to understand this world and life better.

How To Find Out What The Rules Are

The nation or kingdom you live in has laws and rules; they are set by those who are governing or ruling over you. If you want to know what those rules are, you have to talk to them or read the laws they have published. Whether you know what their rules are or not, they will arrest you, if you break a significant rule. If you want to keep from being arrested, you would need to know what the rules are. And, you would need to do what it took to live by them.

Jesus is the Creator of the universe; and He is the One Who made life and the rules for it. He made the rules for relationships, for finances, for governing emotions, and for your physical body. If you want to know what *those* rules are, you must talk to Him or read the Bible He caused to be written. Whether you know what they are or not, if you break them, it will hurt you and others.

Jesus, reveal to me that You are the Creator of the universe, and are the One Who made the rules for life. Help me accept that You made the rules for relationships, for finances, for emotions, and for my physical body. Help me, as I read and study my Bible. Help me learn Your rules and laws so I can see how much better they are than those I am living under now.

Chapter Four
What Does Being Born Again Mean?

Week One Day Four

John 3:2-3 He [Nicodemus] came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi [teacher], we know You are a teacher Who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs You are doing if God were not with him." <u>In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is *born again*</u>."

Where Do You Get Your Advice?
You can get advice from people who are having all the same problems you are; you can listen to people who don't know any more than you do about solving them. Nicodemus was smart; he looked for someone who knew what they were talking about; people frequently don't do that. He saw that *Jesus* knew because He was different. He understood that **no one could perform the miraculous signs** He was **doing if God were not with him.**

Jesus, sometimes I get my advice from people who are having all the same problems I am. Sometimes I listen to people who don't know any more than I do about solving them. Help me break that pattern. Help me be smart like Nicodemus. Help me get my advice from You Who know what You are talking about. Help me understand that **no one could perform the miraculous signs You** were **doing if God were not with** You**.**

Facing The Choices
Like the billions of people currently on this planet, Nicodemus had seen Jesus help all kinds of people with some of the worst problems he had ever seen. In some very evil countries, Christians are being killed, if they don't denounce Jesus. Thousands of them have refused to save their own lives by denouncing Him. Why? Because they know Jesus made this universe; <u>and they know He made them</u>. They know Jesus has the power to solve those things that aren't working for you.

Jesus, I know Christians You have helped with some of the worst problems I have ever seen. Help me realized that You had to be sent by God or You wouldn't have been able to do all those things You did in the Bible. Help me realize You are Someone Who knows what You are talking about. Help me confess that You made this universe; and You made me. Help me confess that You have the power to solve those things that aren't working for me.

Trusting Jesus
Suppose you had a lot of money and were looking for a bank to put it in. What would be the main thing you would want to know? Could you trust them? That is the same issue you are dealing with about your life. It is the only life you have. Who can you trust to help you make the best of it? Nicodemus was trying to see if Jesus was someone he could trust; that is what you are doing. That is good; because, your prayers are opening the door for Jesus to be able to work miracles in your life. As you keep praying these prayers, you keep inviting Him in to your situation.

Jesus, my main concern is, who can I trust? Help me see Your character and attitudes that prove You are trustworthy. Since this is the only life I have, I want to be sure to put my trust in someone who can help me make the best of it. Help me do like Nicodemus and see if You are someone I can trust. Help me believe that You are able to work miracles in my life.

Governing Laws

You Keep Being Arrested

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is *born again*. Before Nicodemus could ask Jesus his first question, Jesus answered the most important one. He needed to know, how does someone become a part of God's Kingdom? Why do you need to ask that? What does God's Kingdom and being born again have to do with the issues you are facing? The things that are messing up your finances, relationships, emotions, and physical condition, also mess up your access into God's eternal Kingdom.

Jesus, help me see that there a lot of things I don't know about my life here on earth. I don't know why You put me here. I don't fully understand what happens to me after I die. I don't know how what I am doing here affects what happens to me in eternity. Help me understand those rules, principles, and issues that bring clarity for me.

Changing Laws And Rules

A lot of the rules and laws of the kingdom or nation where you were born are the same ones God has. They have to do with how you treat people. But, God is willing to empower you to live His laws. The world is only willing to fine you, punish you, or imprison you, if you break theirs. If you are *born again,* you come under the rules and laws of God's Kingdom. When He empowers you to live His rules and laws, you live a life that is more than good enough to please the world.

Jesus, teach me that if I am *born again,* I will come under Your Kingdom's rules and laws. You offer better laws and rules; *and*, You help me live them. Show me that the laws I am currently living under, are *controlling* what kind of life I am *allowed* to live. Help me understand that I can change kingdoms and be brought under a whole new governmental system.

Changing Kingdoms

There are people who have been miserable for years because of the policies and rules of the company they are working for. If they think that is their only option, they keep suffering. You have a better option. God's Kingdom has laws, rules, and policies that make it possible for you to be free from financial, emotional, relational, physical, and spiritual problems. He is able to help you find the right job, the right attitudes toward life, the people you can trust, the health and healing you need, and the spiritual power to live better than you have ever lived before.

Jesus, show me You have knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, and wisdom that You will share with me. Rather than having to rely on my own information, abilities to process that information, and not knowing how it will turn out in the long run, You help ideas and feelings come in my mind and heart that guide me into those things that are best for me.

Chapter Five
Am I Gradually Getting Born Again?

Week One Day Five

How's This Going To Work?

You Got Here Through Birth

John 3:3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again." You may take your human birth for granted that got you here. Where were you before you were born? You don't know! Why did you have to be born to get here? You don't know! But, you *do* know you wouldn't be here if you weren't born. Your birth made you a human, a member of a family, and a citizen of a country. Being born again makes you a child of God, a member of God's family, and a citizen of His eternal Kingdom; that's how you get there.

Jesus, show me how being God's child, a family member, and a citizen of His Kingdom give me rights, privileges, rules, and laws I can be born *again* under. Help me see that it changes everything in my relationship with You. Help me see that like adults helped me mature and do better as a human, that is Your plan for me.

Your Birth Put You Under Laws And Rules

The rules and laws of your human body limit your abilities, talents, skills, and opportunities. The laws of the family you were born in controlled what you were allowed to do there. The laws of the country you were born in control what you are allowed to do in it. The laws of the society control what you are allowed to do with them. It may look like the laws and rules you are currently under will be the ones you will be under for the rest of your life. But, Jesus paid a heavy price, so you could be given a chance to get all the rights and privileges of a child of God.

Jesus, help me see that a child of God is allowed to do things that a regular human isn't even capable of thinking about. Show me that as I study and pray these things, I am being introduced not only to how to get rid of major issues in my life, You are raising my level of expectation by offering me the opportunity of being a child of God. Help me start embracing this opportunity.

You Have To Be A Citizen Of God's Kingdom

Becoming A Kingdom Citizen

As you know, most kingdoms around the world are called nations. Few nations have kings or queens. So, they aren't called KINGdoms. However, Jesus is the King of God's Kingdom. Meeting Him and getting acquainted with His attitudes and character are important to you. They help you be glad He will be in charge of your rights, privileges, and laws. Getting to know Him helps you agree with His plan for your life. When He challenges something that will hurt you but you think it is good for you, it will help you trust Him enough to let Him take it.

Jesus, I now understand why it is called the KINGdom of God; You are the King of God's Kingdom. Let me meet You and get acquainted with Your attitudes and character. Help me learn why I should put You in charge of my rights, privileges, and laws and be glad You are.

Jesus, just like I have been born in a nation or kingdom and am a citizen of that land by birth. That is what You were saying to Nicodemus about birth into the Kingdom of God. You were saying that the only way I can become a citizen of God's Kingdom is by birth. That isn't something I thought would be the answer to the issues of my life. Help me see how this works.

You Have To Be Born Into God's Family To Be A Citizen Of His Kingdom

Being Born Again Is A Personal Decision

Nicodemus was a Jew; and they were considered to be God's chosen people. God had made a whole lot of promises to those who belonged to that nation. Nicodemus probably assumed he was automatically a citizen of the Kingdom of God. Jesus was telling him that wasn't true. The same is true of you; it's not a national, family, or group decision. You can be born in a Christian family, go to church, be baptized as an infant or young child, study all kinds of Bible lessons and even memorize Scripture verses, and still not be **born again.**

Jesus, help me see that even studying and praying these Biblical principles won't automatically make me be born a child of God. Help me understand that You don't cause things to happen to me without my permission. I have to invite You into my life and allow You to make the changes that happen to me, when I get born again. Help me continue to allow myself to be exposed to these studies and prayers so I will understand what You do through this new birth.

Being Born Again Makes You Legal

If you were born in a certain nation or kingdom and you illegally entered another nation or kingdom, you wouldn't have citizen rights and privileges. If you were born in one family and you tried to sneak into another family, you wouldn't be accepted as a member. That only comes through being born in that family or by being adopted into that family by those parents.

Jesus, teach me that I can't just start trying to live the Christian life. There has to be an actual spiritual change take place in me. As I study and pray over these things, help me see that You are trying to help me *want* to be born again. You *aren't* trying to get me to start trying to be a Christian. Help me see that I have to ask You to cause me to be born again.

Being Born Again Brings MANY Of The Benefits

Jesus, make it clear to me that as long as I haven't been **born again** into God's family and Kingdom, I don't get *many* of the benefits that come from that relationship. In other words, help me realize that, that is the reason why *many* of my prayers don't get answered by God prior to salvation. He requires that I become His child, join His family, and became a citizen of His Kingdom *before* I start getting *many* of the benefits that come from Him. This may not make total sense to me right now; but help me see that it will soon.

Chapter Six
What Has Been Holding Up My Prayers?

Week Two Day One

Citizens Of God's Family And Kingdom Get Helped

Being Born Again Brings MANY Answers To Your Prayers

Why do some people ask God for things and not get them? Why can you pray about major crises and not seem to get helped? This is because you lack child, family, and citizen rights for healing and help with your finances, relationships, emotions, physical problems, and spiritual needs. The only prayers God is willing to listen to, prior to you being **born again,** are those prayers that help you be willing to be born again. The reason He has been listening to and answering all these prayers is because they are about you becoming willing to be born again.

Jesus, show me that all those other prayers I prayed weren't heard. Help me understand that there were some prayers I needed to pray that would get me ready for and bring me into being born as Your child, so I could be a member of Your family, and become a citizen of Your Kingdom. It wasn't until now that You started hearing and answering my prayers.

Prayers Prior To Being Born Again

If God wouldn't listen to *any* prayers you pray, prior to being born again, then you praying for being willing to be born again and asking to be born again wouldn't be heard. You have been praying prayers that are asking Jesus to help you understand these things about being **born again** and receiving salvation. These are prayers that are vital for empowering you to be **born again.** And, God is listening to every word and responding by love and power being poured into you.

Jesus doesn't want to trick you into salvation. He doesn't want you to have any misunderstandings about what you are trying to get. Jesus only deals in the realm of the truth. He is answering all these prayers you are praying, so you can have a full understanding of what it means to be **born again**. Then after your new birth, all kinds of prayers will get answered.

Jesus, I thank You for making this exception to the prayer rule. I thank You that even though I haven't made the commitment to be a child of God, a member of His family, and a citizen of His eternal Kingdom, You are listening to me and helping me be taught vital truths that are getting me ready to be born again. Thank You for helping with such love and encouragement.

Not That Again

Just Keep Asking Questions

John 3:4 (NIV) "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" Just as Nicodemus suspected, going in for a second term in your mother's womb wasn't the answer.

You have a pretty good idea how human birth takes place. The big question is, how is it possible to be born *again*? Nicodemus could see some real problems with a grown man being "born again." So, he did what you need to learn to start doing; he asked Jesus a question. If you don't understand or agree with something you hear or read in the Bible, don't get upset. Present the question to Jesus and to your Christian friends. He will help you get the answer at the right time.

Jesus, like Nicodemus, I can see some real problems with a grown person being "born again." Help me do what he did when he needed to learn these things; he asked You a question. If I don't understand or agree with something I hear about the Bible or read in the Bible, keep me from getting upset. Help me present the question to You, to my Christian leaders, and to my Christian friends. I believe that You will see to it that I get the right answer at the right time.

Don't Close Your Mind

Just for the sake of argument, suppose you could go back and get born again as a human baby. All you would end up with was you still being a citizen of the nation or kingdom where you were born and a member of the same human family. It wouldn't change your citizenship, your humanity, or family ties. Obviously, therefore, this is going to be something different than a natural birth.

Jesus, help me open my mind to the supernatural. Help me see that You are moving me into the spirit realm where my heavenly Father is. Show me that being a child of God involves child of God issues. Teach me that I am going to have to allow You to expose me to God-sized things. But, help me, at first, to take them on a matter-of-fact basis. Make it clear to me that it is going to take a lot of training and empowering to get me to the place where I understand them.

Don't Try To Figure It Out

At this stage in your life, it is just a matter of you trusting Jesus. There are a lot of technological things you use everyday that you cannot explain how they work. This is how you are going to have to treat Jesus. He is moving you into the realm of the spirit. But, keep in mind that God's Spirit has been talking to you most of your life. Your conscience has been talking to you about what is right and wrong for a long time. That has been God's Spirit keeping you from falling into the great depths of perversion and evil.

Jesus, help me see that I am a lot more familiar with the things of God and the spirit realm than I have realized. Show me that Your Holy Spirit has been taking to me and helping me resist things that would have destroyed my life. Help me not see these things I am now going into as being all that different. Let me see that You have been in contact with me from the moment I became old enough to be responsible for knowing the difference between right and wrong. Help me just take that relationship You have had with my conscience and let it grow into a wonderful relationship with You.

Chapter Seven
Do I Want To Be A Part Of The Kingdom Of God?

Week Two Day Two

Here's How It Works

You Qualify For Being Born Again

John 3:5 Jesus answered, I tell you the truth, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. God is a Spirit. If you only understand human bodies, it will be difficult for you to realize that you are an eternal being yourself. You live in a body; but, when that body dies and decays, that doesn't have any effect on you being able to continue to exist.

Jesus, help me see that, that means I have to be born in the water of my mother's womb as a human before I can qualify to be born again. Then show me that this next birth is going to be a spiritual birth. Teach me what that means so I can experience being born again.

You Are An Eternal Being

When Jesus talked about people dying, He frequently said they were sleeping. Dying isn't ceasing to exist; dying only means separation. When you die, you are just being separated from your body. You, as an eternal being, continue to live on *somewhere* else. That continuing to live somewhere else is the thing that needs to concern you. Some people believe that they can control their eternal destiny by what they choose to believe; however, that is overwhelmingly wrong!

Jesus, as I learn to trust You more and more, it helps me give up my own personal beliefs as to what happens after I die. As I learn that You always tell the truth, let it help me embrace Your teaching about eternity. Help me understand that You know what comes after death. You died on the cross and rose again after three days. Help me trust You and what You teach.

There Is Life After Death

Just because your body only lasts for a short time doesn't mean that you do. You may have assumed there wasn't any life after death. Or, it may have been something you haven't spent much time thinking about. God is using your struggles with a life-problem to help you start considering an eternally important issue. If you spend eternity with God, you will have to join His family and Kingdom now; you will *not* be able to make that decision after you die.

Jesus, I came to You so You could help me with a current problem. And now, You are talking to me about eternity. Help me see that they are tied together. Help me see that a lot of my life-success now is dependent on what You consider important for Your eternal Kingdom. Teach me the correlation between my life here and how it enhances my life in Your Kingdom and how Your eternal Kingdom enhances my life here.

There Is A Wonderful Life For You Now

The tremendous benefits that come from you making a decision to be born again now is, Jesus teaches you how to be incredibly successful here while enhancing your eternal life. The main reason you are suffering now is because of how you are treating yourself, other people, and God's plan. Once Jesus helps improve your behavior, the way you treat most people will be the way they will start trying to treat you. The way you create win/win solutions will produce friends.

Jesus, help me understand that being born again isn't just an after-life issue. Show me that a lot of tremendous benefits come from me making that decision now. My life is bringing me a lot of suffering that You can and will help me with just as soon as I am born into Your family.

There Is A Wonderful Life For You Later

Rev 21:1-4 (NIV) Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

God is the master at creating win/win situations for you. There is a great system for living life now and that system provides the materials for a better and better eternity. If you allow Jesus to help structure your procedures for living life now, He will help you treat yourself, others, and God's plan in such a way that all of it will count for eternity.

Just look at what God has planned for your eternal life. If you think you have seen some beautiful places here on earth, wait until you see God's new heaven and earth. Because of sin, this earth has suffered some real setbacks. And, because of some of the things humans have done to the planet, there are places where it has lost its luster. But, if it can still look as good as it does, just imagine what God will provide you in eternity.

Jesus, help me visualize the potential of my life now and in eternity. Help me have enough vision to be motivated to join Your plan for my life now, so I can join Your plan for my life in the future. This is all new to me; so, I need You to help me make some adjustments to my thinking. Let Your plans for me become something I can grasp. Help me see these things well enough to motivate me to want to be a part of all You have to offer.

Chapter Eight
Are There Special Rewards In Heaven?

Week Two Day Three

A Chance To Reach Your Potential

Receiving God's Resources

Luke 19:12-13, 15 (NIV) He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.' He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it.

Jesus gave this spiritual illustration of how your life here affects your eternity. This is what Jesus wants to do with you. He wants to invest in your life to the degree you are willing to apply yourself. He will supply all those things necessary for you to be as successful in life as you are willing to be. He will let you set the standard for how much you want to win at life. Then He will provide you with all the resources you need to reach that goal.

Jesus, guide me into the degree of achievement I am capable of. Show me what all I can do in this life, as I apply myself. Help me find that area where I can put my heart into it. Then equip me to reach my full potential. Show me how to create win/win situations within that endeavor. Help me apply procedures to myself and the people around me that are fair and equitable. Let me be able to live a life that is good for me and all those involved with me.

Applying Jesus' Principles

Luke 19:16-19 (NIV) The first one came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned ten more.' 'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.' The second came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned five more.' His master answered, 'You take charge of five cities.'

Like these servants, you will have such an incredible exposure to Jesus and His teachings that you will know how to succeed. It will be easy for you to take Jesus' resources and His life-principles and win with them. Plus, you will have Jesus working with your circumstances so that they enhance your opportunities. You won't have to do any of it by yourself. Jesus will be with you all the way to end of your journey.

Jesus, help me see that it will all depend on how much training and resources I want. I know You will honor my God-given free will. Help me see what all is available to me, so I will desire to be the very best I can be. But, help me see that none of this will be some great pressure on me. Help me understand that I will be operating through Your great power, resources, and training. Show me that You and I will be doing it all together.

Wasting Jesus' Provisions

Luke 19:20-21 (NIV) Then another servant came and said, 'Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. <u>I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man</u>. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.' People can have their reasons for why they don't want to take advantage of Jesus' salvation and cure for sin, but the fact is, they cannot enter into His eternal Kingdom with sin in their life. The reason may be that they have an uninformed view of Who He is. They can be mad at Him for not answering one of their prayers. They can be mad because there is a hell. However, if they had brought those issues before Him, He could have answered every question.

Jesus, help me not let my own inadequate mind and reasoning processes cause me to miss out on Your salvation and born-again life. Help me be wise enough to figure out that I am evaluating You with a mind and information that is totally inadequate. Show me that once You give me this new birth, You will open my mind; and I will be able to see clearly.

Mental Inadequacy

Luke 19:22-24 (NIV) His master replied, '<u>I will judge you by your own words</u>, you wicked servant! <u>You knew, did you</u>, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? <u>Why then didn't you</u> put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?' Then he said to those standing by, '<u>Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas</u>.'

Jesus won't give answers people can't understand. If you ask in sincerity, He will give you answers that will help you see the truth of the matter. If you wait and allow your objections keep you from becoming born again, when He judges you, He will use your own arguments against you. The reason He will win all arguments isn't just because He is so much smarter than you, it will be because He really was the most awesome being in His love for you.

Jesus, help me see that the reason You can solve any objection is because You are everything You say You are. Help me understand that when it all comes down to the truth, You are far superior to all that I have been able to learn to appreciate. Give me a greater ability to see You in an even greater light. Help me open my heart and mind so I can see the real truth about Who You are. Show me Your greatness and Your trustworthiness.

Chapter Nine
What Kind Of Cooperation Do I Need To Give Jesus?

Week Two Day Four

The Goodnews Message
Mat 13:3 (NIV) Then He (Jesus) told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. This is a spiritual illustration that uses earthly things to explain heavenly things. This one is to help you see some issues that can keep you from being willing to be born again or stay born again. Also, Jesus gave examples of people who applied themselves in varying degrees of success in life and in eternity through salvation.

Jesus, help me learn from this parable, so I will be able to not only be born again, I will succeed in an incredible way. Help me have spiritual understanding so I can compare a farmer planting seeds to me making a decision to join You. Give me a full picture of what caused some seeds to fail, so I can avoid that issue.

No Understanding Of Spiritual Things
Mat 13:4 (NIV) As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. This is a person who gets Jesus' information but doesn't understand what any of it means. The birds eating the seeds represents Satan and his people causing you to think there isn't any benefit in Jesus and His Christianity. They run the Bible down, claim it is full of mistakes, try to use the Bible's words to prove God doesn't respect and love you, and try to prove to you that the universe wasn't created by God.

Jesus, help me understand and realize that the salvation message is the greatest message I can be exposed to. Help me have an open mind and heart to a way of life that will revolutionize the way I think, the way I treat myself, the way I treat others, and the way I treat You. Help me comprehend the full meaning of what You are saying to me so I can apply it to my life.

Caring About What People Think
Mat 13:5 (NIV) Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. This is a person who joins Jesus out of convenience, because their friends are doing it, there was something they wanted God to do for them, or because someone was pressuring them to do it. They didn't see it as a miracle change in their life that was worth fighting for. They didn't care enough about what was best for them. They weren't willing to explore all the benefits so they could make a knowledgeable decision.

Jesus, I thank You for helping me be willing to expose myself to all these things You are showing me. Thank You for giving me enough desire that I have been willing to do the research and pray the prayers that have helped me see all the wonderful things I see. Help me keep digging down deep into these truths so I can have roots that are strong.

Letting People Run Your Life

Mat 13:6 (NIV) But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. The sun represents people's opinions, social pressure, and persecution. If you don't allow Jesus to help you really care about your own future, people and society will wear you down. It doesn't always happen at once. You can start exposing yourself to things that aren't good for you but aren't "all that bad." People can gradually contaminate your belief system until you see wrong as being right and right as being wrong.

Jesus, help me see that You and Your power are needed to keep me from being worn down. Help me understand that I am going to need Your help with avoiding people and things that damage me. Help me get so busy with those things that make my life great, that I don't have time and lack the desire to degrade my life with wrong, bad, and evil things.

Letting *Things* Be Your Goal

Mat 13:7 (NIV) Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. When *things* become more important than you or other people, then this happens to you. When you allow Jesus to empower you to be born again, you start off being very interested in Jesus' way of looking at life. You and the people around you are more important than money, possessions, popularity, positions, power, prestige, pleasure, or accomplishments. But, as Jesus makes your life better, you can get satisfied with your new life and start taking it for granted. So, you start looking back at some *things* that you used to give time to before.

Jesus, help me stay focused on those things that will take me where I need to go. Help me see that You will help me be successful with things. You just want to help me keep them in their proper perspective. Help me get things so I can help people rather than using people to get things. Help me go into the born-again experience with a full understanding that people are much more important than things.

Varying Degrees Of Success

Mat 13:8 (NIV) Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop--a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. This is the only success story in this parable. Two of the others started out well; but people with bad motives and things for wrong purposes lured them away from Jesus. If you let Jesus show you the whole story, you will be so clear on what He has to offer, that you wouldn't trade it or Him for anything. You know what the world has to offer. You gave it plenty of time and effort. You just don't yet have adequate information and experiences to prove that Jesus offers a *far superior* life. You need to give Him the time and cooperation He needs to prove it.

Jesus, help these words open my heart and mind to the possibilities so I will give You my full cooperation. Help me see that words will never measure up to the actual experiences. Show me that this time of study and prayer is for bring me to the place where I am convinced to not only try Christianity, but to give it and You my full cooperation.

Chapter Ten
What Must I Do To Be Born Again?

Week Two Day Five

Separated From God

Eph 2:1 (NIV) As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins. This is going to be talking to you, as if you have already made this decision and took the steps into being born again. From your perspective, allow it to introduce you into where you are and where you are going. Remember, dead means separated. At this point, you are on the outside looking in. Your **transgressions and sins** haven't been cured by Jesus' salvation and justification.

Jesus, help me see my life as being as bad as it really is. Help me understand that You aren't trying to point out how bad of a person I am. Help me not come to You thinking that my deeds aren't all that bad. Help me see sin as being as deadly, highly contagious, and addictive as it really is. Help me see them as being incredibly bad, so I will be willing to let them go and let your right, good, and righteousness come in.

The Wrath Of God

Eph 2:2-3 (NIV) In which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. Don't forget, not one sin will be allowed in God's eternal Kingdom. Don't forget that you are either involving others in your sins, or you are helping them come into Jesus' wonderful life. Wrath has to do with those two activities of hurting and neglecting others.

Jesus, I haven't been thinking about what I am or am not doing to others. Help me see that my sins typically involve others or at least have an effect on them. Also, help me realize that as long as I am not living the Christian life, I can't help others be set free from their sins and get ready to spend eternity with You. Help me see why this brings the wrath of God.

Getting Undeserved Good

Eph 2:4-5 (NIV) But because of His great love for us, God, Who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. Keep in mind that you can't get salvation by doing something to deserve it, it is a gift. It is a very simple process to become born again, and you immediately are trained and empowered to start living life with a lot more supernatural resources.

Jesus, if this were difficult or complicated, then it would a major issue to consider. But, since it is free, can't be obtained by me deserving it, and is a very simple process into it, help me get ready to get actively involved in doing what it takes to be born again.

They All Become Yours

Eph 2:6-7 (NIV) <u>And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus</u>, in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. At the moment of being born again, you join Jesus in His positions, authorities, and power. They are still under Jesus' control, so you won't abuse them. But, they are all there for you to learn how to yield to them. Jesus will immediately begin your training so you can start winning.

Jesus, help me see how great Your eternal-life training will be. Help me give my life over to Your system of leading me into those things that have been made available for all born-again believers. Teach me what it means that I will be raised up with You and seated with You in the heavenly realms. Show me that I will have them so I can learn how to use them.

Where's The Power To Live This Life?

You Must Be Connected To God

You understand that unless your house is connected to water and electricity, you won't get those benefits. Certain prayers connect you to God in various ways. You have been connecting to Jesus by inviting Him into training you *about* being born again and becoming God's child, a member of His family, and a citizen of His Kingdom. Now you need to go beyond learning *about* these things and learn *how* to get them.

Jesus, help me see that so far You and I have been connecting over me learning *about* these important things. Show me that You have been trying to help me feel comfortable with believing these things are true, that You have been teaching me. Help me realize that until I start believing they are true, I still won't *want* them. Help me trust You and believe that You only tell me the truth. Help me get connected by believing in You and Your teachings!

You Must MAKE The Connection

Up until now, you have been *applying* yourself to learning *about* how to get Jesus' help with your personal problems. Once you are convinced and feel comfortable with Jesus' teaching, you must *apply* the connection to Jesus. You must ask Him to empower you to be born again. It is always your decision as to what you get from Jesus. It is true that you must follow His requirements, rules, and laws for being born again. But, it still requires you asking Him for it.

Jesus, I am ready for You to start teaching me *how* to allow You to empower me to be born again. Help me with any fears, doubts, or reservations that I might have. Help me understand that You will only lead me into this experience, if I am completely comfortable with You helping me be born again. If I need any further help, show me what it is, so I can be born again as a child of God, a member of His family, and a citizen of His Kingdom.

"How Would I Become A Christian?" Section Two

Chapter Eleven
How Does The Lord's Prayer Help Me?

Week One Day One

The Procedures For Being Born Again

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray: "'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.'**

This is the typical prayer Jesus wants you to pray for the rest of your life. It is an unselfish prayer that you pray not only for yourself but for all Christians. By using the words, "our, us, and we" you are praying it for you and all Christians everywhere. But, there is a moment when you must pray it for yourself. To do that, the "our, us, and we" words must be replaced with "my, me, and I." It must be made into a personal prayer you are praying for yourself.

Jesus, help me get ready to make this a personal prayer that I pray from my heart in sincerity and honesty. Help me make it the words I want to express as to how I feel. Make it real to me as being a prayer of acceptance that I am moving from just being a human spirit in a human body. Help me see that through this simple prayer, a supernatural transformation will take place in me, turning me into a child of God. I will be born again!

My Father In Heaven!

Being Born Again Gives You A New Father

When you pray this prayer, Jesus explains that you are being born again with a new birth: **John 3:6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.** When your mother gave birth to you, you were born a human. Your mother and father were flesh and blood humans so they gave birth to a flesh and blood human. Through praying this prayer, in an instant, you get born through God, Who is Spirit, giving birth to a spirit you . You become a spirit being that has incredible potential that far exceeds your human potential.

Jesus, help me believe this is totally true. Make it real to me that this simple process has the power to transform me into God's child. Help me believe that, that will make me into a spirit being with supernatural potential. Show me how being born through God will empower me to live a much more victorious life than I have been able to live as a human. Help me understand that this is how You want to empower me to win over the problems in my life.

Being Born Again Gives You A New Life

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." What happens if you don't make enough money? What happens if you get a deadly disease? What happens if you are in a big accident? On and on it goes in the back of your mind. But, all of a sudden you have a heavenly Father that is more powerful than anything that *might* happen to you. You can trust that He is watching over you and even can see into your future.

Jesus, help me see that when I make God my heavenly Father, He becomes my parent and feels great love toward me. Help me feel that love and cry out, "Dear Father." Show me that from then on, I will experience His protection and love. Let me see that He will help me get rid of the fears that drive me. Help me believe I will be able to relax in His care.

Being Born Again Gives You An Assurance

Rom 8:16 (NIV) The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. In other words, the Spirit Himself will testify to your spirit that you are God's child. Once you accept Jesus' prayer as your prayer, and once you call God your heavenly Father, the Holy Spirit will come inside you and empower you to know God has made you His child. The same Holy Spirit that has been speaking to your conscience will start speaking to your spirit.

Jesus, help me remember how my conscience made me feel bad about things I was doing that were wrong. Help me realize that, that bad feeling I got was Your Holy Spirit speaking to my conscience. Help me understand that He has been talking to me most of my life. Help me feel familiar with Him so I won't see this as being strange. So, when He helps me know I am a child of God, help me recognize His voice in my spirit.

Being Born Again Gives You An Inheritance

Rom 8:17a (NIV) Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ…. Being born again makes God your heavenly Father; and, you become His child. That gives you all the rights and privileges of His child. As His child, you inherit His spiritual DNA, His love, His provisions, His relationship, and His eternal way of life. Once you are convinced that being born again is something you want and need, then you would start off calling God your heavenly Father by saying: My **Father in heaven.** By doing that, you would be obeying Jesus by praying His prayer. And, you would be accepting God as your heavenly Father.

Jesus, help me get ready to obey You by praying Your prayer and by making God my heavenly Father. Teach me what this means, so I can understand what I am doing. I want to open my heart to obedience to You and to receiving God as my heavenly Father. Help me allow this process to cause me to believe a miracle will take place and that it really will produce the result of me becoming His child.

Chapter Twelve
How Should I React To Miracles?

Week One Day Two

The Procedures For Being Born Again

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray: "'Our Father in heaven, <u>hallowed be Your name</u>, 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.'**

Appreciating A New Life

Learning How To Believe

2 Cor 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, <u>he is a new creation</u>; the old has gone, the new has come! It is a very simple process that will surprise you as to how easy it is. But, it isn't simple in what it produces in you. All you have to do is believe God will do this to you. All you have to do is believe that saying these words make God your heavenly Father. All you have to do is believe that the moment you say my **Father in heaven--**you will be born again.

Jesus, help me believe that the moment I say my **Father in heaven,** I will be born again. Help me understand that I must believe this or I won't receive it as being true <u>of me</u>. Help me see that this is a matter of me believing You. I am to believe that You are telling me the truth. I am to believe that You are honest and trustworthy. Help me believe in You.

Learning What Believe Is

Heb 11:1 (NIV) Now faith IS <u>being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see</u>. That hasn't happened to you much in the past. You have learned to base a lot of your faith on what you see. If someone you trust tells you something, you will try to believe it. But, you won't totally believe it until you see it for yourself. Now you are being asked to see it through different eyes. Jesus is asking you to trust Him, believe He is trustworthy, and allow Him to convince you that what He is telling you will happen to you.

Jesus, this Bible verse is hard for me. Help me be sure of what I hope for and certain of what I do not see. Teach me how to start living with this kind of faith. Help me see that this is the kind of faith I must have in order to live the Christian life. Show me a way to have this kind of faith for being born again so I will have it for everything else in my Christian life.

Hallowed Be Your Name

Allowing Your Emotions To Get Involved

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." If you are afraid to let your hopes get too high, you will hold the emotions in your heart back. If you just keep demanding more mental proof, you will cheat your heart out of being able to feel your heavenly Father. If you are afraid of what my happen to your relationships with other people, then you are allowing them to decide what your future will be.

Jesus, help me be able to say: **"Hallowed be Your name"** with a heart that is free. Help me not keep standing on the outside looking in. Help me not allow other people to decide what my future is going to be. Help me not base my life on fear rather than giving You a chance to prove to me how great You really are. Let me have excitement and appreciation flow through my heart the moment I make God my heavenly Father.

Allowing Your Mind To Get Involved

Rom 8:16 (NIV) The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. You have gone ahead and tried things that you weren't sure of. If you knew you could get out of the deal or situation later, you went ahead and gave it a try. When you make God your heavenly Father, His Holy Spirit will speak to your spirit and help you see things you can see now. If someone tells you about a beautiful place they saw, their description isn't nearly as effective as you going and seeing it for yourself. It is then that your mind has its own picture.

Jesus, help me see that my mind isn't going to be nearly as convinced as it will be, once it has had a chance for the Holy Spirit to speak to it through my child of God spirit. Help me see that all these words are very helpful. But, nothing is going to give real excitement, appreciation, and thanksgiving like the moment I allow You to show me what it is all about.

Letting Your Life Get Involved

Rom 8:17a (NIV) Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ…. Even if you don't initially get a powerful, emotional experience in the beginnings of your born again event, you will see things change in the daily activities of your life. If you have been a person who has been holding their emotions back for a long time, you may not allow Jesus to bless you with great emotional blessings. Since He never goes against your God-given free will, joyous experiences won't be forced on you.

Jesus, help me start looking for miracles to start taking place in my life. If I am a pessimist, empower me to expect them to be happening in my life. Let me see the wonderful changes You are making in me, in my relationships, and in my circumstances. Help me not be blinded by negative attitudes and doubts. And, when I see them, help me thank You and praise You for giving them to me.

Chapter Thirteen
Where Is God's Kingdom?

Week One Day Three

The Procedures For Being Born Again

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray: "'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, <u>Your kingdom come</u>, 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.'**

Your Kingdom Come

Qualifying For Entering Into God's Eternal Kingdom

John 3:3, 5 (NIV) In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, <u>no one can see the kingdom of God</u> unless he is born again." Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, <u>no one can enter the kingdom of God unless</u> he is born of water and the Spirit."

Once you say, my Father in heaven, you are confessing with your mouth that He *is* your Father. You are accepting Him *as* your Father. You are *believing* that Jesus' prayer has the *power* to make you a child of God by saying those words. Now, because you did that, you would be believing that you qualify for the Kingdom of God to let you in.

Jesus, help me realize that by saying, **Your Kingdom come,** I would be inviting God's eternal Kingdom into my life. Remind me that You have already taken me through the studies and prayers over the laws and rules that govern kingdoms and nations. Help me see that I will not only become a child of God, I will become a citizen of His Kingdom. Help me understand that, that will put me under *His* rules and laws that empower me to *live* them.

Looking From A New Perspective

Luke 18:16-17 (NIV) But Jesus called the children to Him and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, <u>for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these</u>. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God <u>like a little child will never enter it</u>." A little child is new to the planet. They look at all those things you have long since taken for granted and see them as amazing and new. Jesus wants you to see these spiritual things from this same perspective.

Jesus, help me not try to use my knowledge of this world to understand Your Kingdom. Help me see that Your Kingdom is very different. Give me the attitude of a little child. Give me the wonder and amazement of a spirit being entering into a new realm.

The Kingdom Starts Inside You

Luke 17:20 (NIV) Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' <u>because the kingdom of God is within you</u>." Jesus doesn't want you to redirect your attention to the times and dates of when He is coming to set up His Kingdom. For now, He wants you to just live on the basis of having it inside you. First, allow yourself to get used to how it works in your life.

Jesus, help me remain as a little child and just let You take me through this process. Help me simply follow Your lead like a child would follow their parent. Help me trust that You will gradually make it all clear to me. Help me not get ahead of You and get distracted with things I am not yet ready to be concerned with. Show me that I have plenty to learn for now.

The Kingdom Is Sinless

Mark 1:15 (NIV) "The time has come," He (Jesus) said. "The kingdom of God is near. <u>Repent and believe</u> the good news!" Once you have accepted God as your heavenly Father through Jesus' prayer, it is important for you to know that you can't enter into God's eternal Kingdom with sin in your life. Jesus' prayer includes a place where you repent of your sins. One of the reasons certain people won't be allowed into God's eternal Kingdom is because they wouldn't allow Jesus to cleanse them of all their sins. They will try to enter in with sin in their life. One sin would destroy God's eternal Kingdom. Therefore, all must be set free from sin through Jesus. This will be addressed when Jesus' prayer brings it up.

Jesus, help me understand this forgiveness process You are providing for me. Help me see that a lot of things I have done and neglected to do have be wrong. Help me see that God's Kingdom is sinless because sin is deadly and highly contagious. And, sinners typically want others to participate with them in sinful activities. Prepare my heart for repentance.

The Kingdom Of God Will Be Filled With Former Sinners

Mat 21:31 (NIV) "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, <u>the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you</u>. It doesn't matter what you have done, what you are doing, or how long you have been doing it. The issue is, what will you do with Jesus' prayer? If you accept Him as being your Savior and Lord, you will pray this prayer and be forgiven of all your past, present, and future sins. Then you will be sinless and a citizen of His eternal Kingdom.

Jesus, help me not think You lack the ability to handle anything I have done, am doing, or will do. Help me have faith in Your ability to forgive me of my sins through Your death on the cross for me. Help me not be willing to come up with any objection. Help me bring anything that I see as a problem and present it to You. Show me that the only way You won't be able to handle one of my issues will be because I didn't give You a chance to solve it for me and with me. Help me never think anything will ever be too hard for You.

Chapter Fourteen
Do I Have To Go With God's Will?

Week One Day Four

The Procedures For Being Born Again

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray: "'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, <u>Your will be done</u> 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.'**

Your Will Be Done

Getting My Way

Prov 16:25 (NIV) There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death. If you will be honest about it, this is the way you have been. You have done things that put you outside God and His Kingdom. You have done things to yourself, other people, and God's plan that the Bible says brings spiritual death. If you could see things through God's knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, and wisdom, you would see constant desires coming from you that would end up bad. But, you can't see through these things of God. So, that makes it possible for you to really want your way.

Jesus, I have had my way long enough to know that there are a lot of things I have wanted and am wanting that will end up bad for me. As I look at my track record, I remember a lot of things I wanted really bad that didn't turn out well for me. Help me use these things to assist me in doubting my will. Show me that it will be impossible for me to experience God's will, if I am constantly getting my way.

Getting God's Will

Isa 55:8-9 (NIV) "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. "<u>As the heavens are higher than the earth</u>, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." Creating the universe was enough. But, God went on and literally *invented* every kind of vegetable, animal, reptile, bug, bird, fish, and plant. Not just a vegetable, an animal, a reptile, a bug, a bird, a fish, and a plant, He invented thousands of different kinds of each category. And if you are thinking that the different varieties just mutated over billions of years, take a look at the gap between them and the incredible difference in them. They are so different that you can name each variety.

Jesus, help me see that I am dealing with incredible brilliance. Show me that I am dealing with brilliance tempered with incredible love. Reveal to me the deep interest and care God has for me. Help me so want His will for my life that I find it easy to yield to Him.

Before You Had A Say In The Matter

Rom 5:8 (NIV) But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: <u>While we were still sinners</u>, Christ died for us. Like everyone else, you were in big trouble concerning your life after death. Because you were created in God's image, which made you an eternal spirit being, you will spend eternity in one of two places. There is God's eternal Kingdom for those who are totally cured of all sin. And there is hell for those who refused to be totally cured of all sin. Jesus has an incredible plan for curing everyone from all sin. But, it took His death on a cross to accomplish it. When you get born again, Jesus cures you from all sin.

Jesus, help me see how awesome God's will is. Before I even knew I needed help with all these problems, You did what it took to set me free. Help me see that Your will takes everything into consideration. My will is based on a very limited set of resources. When I find myself being strong willed, help me compare my resources with Your resources for how our decisions were made.

No Matter What Happens

Rom 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in ALL THINGS <u>God works for the good of those who love Him</u>, who have been called according to His purpose. God's will is based on making sure everything that comes your way works out for your good. If you have a conflict with God's will, keep in mind that you are fighting His will that is trying to see to it that your circumstances of life work out for your good. You may have a solution, a plan, a goal, or a system. But, God has a solution, a plan, a goal, and a system that is being forced to work out for your good. But, you control which one is implemented.

Jesus, help me pray for God's will to be done in my life. Help me pray it with confidence and peace. Help me bring my will to Him for Him to inspect. Help me pray this portion of this prayer with the knowledge that there is no other will in all of existence that is better for me than God's will.

Getting A Better Thought Life

Phil 4:8 (NIV) Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. Once you become born again, Jesus will empower your thought-life. He will help you start having thoughts that inspire your day. He will help you give up thoughts that aren't useful. He will give you thoughts that help you solve problems and help those around you. Being connected to Jesus is a very wonderful part of being a Christian.

Jesus, sometimes my thoughts really get out of control. There are times when I don't know what to think about things. There are times when I need an idea that is bigger than I can typically think. I look forward to being able to bring my thoughts under the guidance of Philippians 4:8 and You. Help me see that my relationship with You is going to be so wonderful. Help me see that this is just a small part of all You have to offer in Your will.

Chapter Fifteen
Why Doesn't God Do Something?

Week One Day Five

The Procedures For Being Born Again

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray: "'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, <u>Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven</u>. 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.'**

Your Will Be Done On Earth As It Is In Heaven

Starting To Do God's Will

Why are there so many wars? Why is there so much disease? Why is there so much poverty? Why doesn't God do something about all this suffering? The truth of the matter is, He did. He provided mankind with the resources necessary to help every person on this planet. The major things that are keeping all these issues from being addressed are attitudes and character. If everyone would come to Jesus and be saved, everyone would want to solve these problems.

Jesus, help me see that one of the reasons I am on this planet is to learn how to yield to Your attitudes and character. You are leaving it up to me to receive Your knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and love so I can help humans get their needs met.

Your Final Exam

Mat 25:31-33 (NIV) When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left.

Jesus is coming back to earth to judge the deeds of the living and the dead. Sure, God can solve all the problems of everyone on earth. But, that wouldn't teach you how to care, to love, to get involved, and to rule with Jesus in eternity. This is your time to learn how to run a planet. This is your chance to demonstrate what you would do with God's power to help people.

Jesus, I didn't know that this was why I am here. Thank You for helping me see why You are wanting me to be born again. Without Your power, love, wisdom, and training, I would spend all my time here trying to make my life better. When it was in my best interest, I would lie, cheat, take things that weren't really mine (steal), commit sex sins just to get my pleasure, and ignore the needs, pain, disease, poverty, and damage of others.

Judging The Christians
Mat 25:34 (NIV) Then the King (Jesus) will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. These are the people who applied themselves to the needs of others. But, they didn't do it because they were such wonderful people. They are just the same as every other person on this planet. It wasn't until Jesus caused them to be born again that they saw things from an entirely different perspective. All His love, power, wisdom, and transformation came into their lives and they saw what life is all about.

Jesus, help me see that I am never going to really change without Your provisions coming into my life. Show me that it isn't that I am worse than anyone else. My condition is typical of all humans. I am never going to be able to see beyond myself without Your transforming power. Help me see how much I need to be born again, so I will be able to pass my final exam.

The Open-Book Test
Mat 25:35 (NIV) For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me.' Meeting these needs isn't just done to one person one time. Jesus is talking about everyone, everywhere, all the time. These are people who got together and started helping others be born again so they would have Jesus' knowledge, understanding, wisdom, power, and love so they could succeed in life.

Jesus, help me see that not only will salvation transform my attitudes and character, it is the answer to every person on this planet. Teach me the Biblical principles through my born-again experience, so I can go out and help others get what I am getting.

Jesus Takes It Personal
Jesus will credit those things on this list that Christians have done, as if they did them to Him: **The King (Jesus) will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of Mine, <u>you did for Me</u> (Mat 25:40).'**

He will go over this list and say the unsaved *didn't* do these things to Him: **He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did NOT do for one of the least of these, <u>you did NOT do for Me</u> (Mat 25:45).' Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life (Mat 25:46)."**

Jesus, help me be born again so I will be changed into a person who is made wise, loving, and motivated to live my life in a win/win way. Help me be set free from just working on my life to make it better. Help me see that the more I learn about making my life better, the more I have learned how to make other people's lives better. Let Your will be done on earth just like it is being done in heaven.

Chapter Sixteen
What If I Want To Worry?

Week Two Day One

The Procedures For Being Born Again

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray: "'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.'**

Give Us Today Our Daily Bread

The Giving Principle

Mat 6:24 (NIV) No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. The Christian life consists of using things to help people. Jesus wants to prosper you; but, there is a principle that is required. It is an unusual principle; but, it works in a miraculous way. **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.**

Jesus, this goes against most of what I have been taught. I have been taught to be frugal. I was taught to save any excess money I can. Teach me how to start investing in people. Help me start out small and gradually practice this giving principle.

Financial Issue Domination

Mat 6:25-26 (NIV) Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

Once you are born again, things start to happen to you that help you be at the right place at the right time, doing and saying the right things to the right people. You will learn how to let Jesus guide you to financial supply that you would have never found on your own. It may take you awhile to learn to trust Him; but, He will keep working special miracles in your life. Soon you will be able to concentrate on others while Jesus takes good care of you.

Jesus, I can see how my life is very wrapped up in financial issues most of my day. If something doesn't happen, I will use up most of my life making a living. Help me learn a better way of taking care of my physical needs without being dominated by it.

Faith In Jesus

Mat 6:27-30 (NIV) Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

When you are on your own without Jesus' help, you really have to stay on your toes. It is like the difference between being totally blind and being able to see clearly. Jesus gives you so much information, insight, wisdom, and guidance. Things that look like great opportunities, Jesus points out as traps. Things that look like they wouldn't amount to much, Jesus encourages you to take advantage of. He makes life so much easier, once you are born again and learn how to listen to His guidance.

Jesus, I can see that this is going to be a very different experience. I had no idea any of this was available to me. Without You, I didn't have any choice concerning worrying about my physical needs. Help me make this transition into faith in You. Lead me into a life where I am able to go about my day doing those things You take me into.

Getting The Success Principles

Mat 6:31-33 (NIV) So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But <u>seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these THINGS will be given to you as well</u>.

You will discover that putting your priorities on Jesus and the Bible will give you principles that will tell you how to succeed at life. No one knows how to instruct you in winning at life without pushing you into time-consuming effort. Jesus redirects your attention on investing in people while blessing you for doing it. Good things happen to you without you making them happen. Jesus rewards you for **seeking first His Kingdom and His righteousness.**

Jesus, help me realize that You operate on a supernatural level that produces results that may not make sense to me. The cause and the effect that I am used to doesn't apply to You. Show me that as You bring me into Your way of life, I will enter into a new type of cause and effect. Help me not have to be constantly convinced that nothing is impossible with You.

Chapter Seventeen
Whose Sins Did Jesus Die For?

Week Two Day Two

The Procedures For Being Born Again

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray: "'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.'**

Forgive Us Our Sins

Learning What Sin Is

Forgive us our debts is talking about the sins you have committed against yourself, others, and God. The Bible lists the major sins that you may have been involved in. But, it just lists them, so you will know what to avoid. **Rom 1:29-32 (NIV) They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.**

Jesus, help me understand that not one sin will be allowed in Your eternal Kingdom. Show me that it would be like one cancer cell that would multiply and spread over the whole Kingdom. Help me *not* look at this list and grade them based on what I think as one being worse than others. Make it clear to me that I need to be forgiven and set free from every kind of sin or it will spread all through my life and contaminate the lives of others.

Jesus Died For All Sins

Rom 5:18 (NIV) Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. Jesus didn't just die for Christians; He died for the sins of every person on the planet.
1 John 2:2 (NIV) He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Jesus, help me see that You have *already* died for all of my sins. Now, all that has to happen is, I just have to accept that forgiveness into my life. Because of my God-given free will, none of Your provisions are applied to me until I allow them to be installed. Help me understand what I need to do to allow You to apply this provision to me.

You Have To Believe

John 3:16 (NIV) For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that WHOEVER <u>believes in Him</u> shall not perish but have eternal life. Once Jesus died for your sins, the provision was immediately waiting for you to take advantage of it. It is like having a lot of money in your account at the bank. It is there; but you have to do what it takes to take advantage of it.

Whoever believes in Him: You are being exposed to the Bible principles that lay out the prayer you must pray. But, it isn't a ritual or a formula; it is a procedure that you must believe will produce the results Jesus says it will. Believing in Him means you believe that what He did will work for you. When you pray this prayer to be born again, you must believe it worked.

Jesus, help me believe that You dying on the cross brought forgiveness of sins for me and the whole world. Then help me believe that if I pray this Lord's Prayer, I will be accepting Your provision of making me be born again. Help me believe that I will immediately become a child of God, a member of His family, and a citizen of His eternal Kingdom.

The Purpose Was Salvation

John 3:17 (NIV) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. By Jesus coming and dying for the whole world's sins, it changed everyone's sin situation. They will be judged based on what they decide to do with Jesus and His provisions. If they reject Jesus and His provisions, they will be judged for all their own sins because they didn't accept His cure. *And,* they will be judged for not accepting Him and His provisions. But, when you accept Him, you will be free from all sins.

Jesus, help me realize that since I can be transformed into a person who grows spiritually, I will start avoiding more and more sins against myself, other people, and You. And, I will grow into doing more and more good things to myself, others, and You. Help me see that, that would be a great acceptance of provisions that would help so many people. Help me not neglect receiving all You have to offer me, so others can benefit from it through me.

Get The Message Out

John 3:18 (NIV) Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already <u>because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son</u>. Now that this incredible provision has been presented to you and the whole world, it is your and everyone else's responsibility to take advantage of it. It is just a matter of everyone being made aware of the provision. Once that happens, if they see how incredible it is and they don't take advantage of it, they **stand condemned already.**

Jesus, help me have a clear understanding of how great Your provisions are. Help me take complete advantage of them. And, help me share their greatness with those around me. Teach me every aspect of everything that is available. Then help me start living all of it. Then once I get a breakthrough in an area of Your provisions, help me share it will others.

Chapter Eighteen
Do I Have To Forgive Everyone?

Week Two Day Three

The Procedures For Being Born Again

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray: "'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. <u>Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors</u>. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'**

Forgive Us Our Debts, As We Also Have Forgiven Our Debtors

You Must Forgive In Order To Be Forgiven

As we also have forgiven our debtors: The **"As we also"** means you get forgiven of your sins by means of the same method you use to forgive others of their sins against you.

Jesus, empower me to completely forgive those I haven't forgiven of sins they committed against me. Give me your power-forgiveness so I can use it to forgive them with the kind of forgiveness you will give me. I know You won't allow me to remember everyone right now. But, help me apply this forgiveness to those You later cause me to remember.

This Is Continuous

Mat 6:14-15 (NIV) For <u>if you forgive men</u> when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But <u>if you do not forgive men</u> their sins, your Father will NOT forgive your sins. As Jesus keeps reminding you of people you need to forgive, stop and ask Him to empower you to forgive them with His power-forgiveness.

Jesus, as I go about my life, help me keep forgiving those You bring to my memory. And, help me also forgive those who offend me as I go about my life. When someone does something that offends me, help me ask You to empower me to forgive them immediately. Help me not hold a grudge against anyone. Help me keep in mind that my heavenly Father won't forgive me when I ask Him, if I knowingly and willfully refuse to forgive someone.

This Is How It Works With You

Mat 18:23-27 (NIV) Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

Jesus, help me see that You will be forgiving me of a great debt. It is a debt that I would never be able to pay myself. Help me be mightily impacted by Your great love, grace, and mercy for me. Let me see that this great act of love You apply to me is much greater than the king in this parable. You paid my debt with great suffering and death.

This Is What You Need To Consider

Mat 18:28-30 (NIV) But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

Jesus, help me keep this parable in mind during times I struggle with forgiving someone else. Help me see how much I have been forgiven of and understand that I am not being nearly as forgiving as You are. Help me not just take this parable and try to apply it through human reasoning. Help me pray and ask for Your power-forgiveness for every situation I face.

This Is A Part Of Your Final Exam

Mat 18:31-34 (NIV) When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

Jesus, help me see that all this servant would have had to do was compare his situation with his fellow servant. Help me see beyond myself into the lives of those around me. Heal me of selfishness and self-centeredness. Take the blindness that they create away from me so I can see fairness, forgiveness, love, mercy, and grace. Show me all those things You have done for me, so I can be empowered to apply them to the relationships in my life.

Jesus' Power Forgiveness Needed

Mat 18:35 (NIV) This is how My heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart. There is another Biblical principle that is in effect concerning this Biblical principle: **Mat 5:7 (NIV) Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.** Mercy is doing good to a person who deserves to be punished.

Mat 18:22 (NIV) Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. Jesus, help me understand that the only way I can get God's mercy on my life is to be merciful to others. And, the only way I can be merciful is for the person to not deserve my mercy or forgiveness. Show me that, that is because mercy consists of me doing good to someone who doesn't deserve it. A person who has sinned against me seventy-seven times definitely doesn't deserve it. But, empower me to be merciful by forgiving them anyway.

Chapter Nineteen
What Do I Have To Unlearn?

Week Two Day Four

The Procedures For Being Born Again

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray: "'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. <u>And lead us not into temptation</u>, but deliver us from the evil one.'**

And Lead Us Not Into Temptation

Keeping People From Being Saved

Rom 1:18 (NIV) The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men <u>who suppress the truth by their wickedness</u>. All the wonderful provisions, blessings, gifts, and love of God are being **suppressed** by the **wickedness** of people who are leading others into **wickedness**. Their efforts, their products, their philosophies, their educational systems, and their mass presentations in the media all **suppress the truth by their wickedness.**

Jesus, help me not be influenced by these people; help me not be one of them; and, help me not join them. Show me that if I insist, You will have to allow me to go in any direction I want to go. Help me see that, if I need to be led to the bottom of evil so I will see how sinful sin is, You will lead me there so I will see and repent. Help me be easy to take into right, good, and righteousness, so I won't need any severe treatment to help save me.

Knowledgeably Sinning

Rom 1:19 (NIV) <u>Since what may be known about God</u> is plain to them, because God has <u>made it plain to them</u>. God created the universe without any billion-year process. God created the universe instead of a mindless process of evolution. But, wicked people convince millions of people that God didn't create the universe. They say it all came through a random, mindless, and purposeless process without plan, love, rules, or goals. They know God exists, **because God has made it plain to them.** But, they **suppress the truth by their wickedness.**

Jesus, set me free from the *theory* of evolution. Help me see the whole of Your creation with new eyes. Help me go out and allow Your creation to speak to me so You can make it **plain** to me. Show me the gaps rather than mutational flow from one species to another. Show me the distinctions of every plant, tree, bird, animal, reptile, fish, spider, and bug. Help me see the magnitude of Your Creation so evil people don't **suppress the truth by their wickedness** in my life. And, help me not **suppress the truth by** my **wickedness** in others.

The Message Of Creation
Rom 1:20 (NIV) For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities--His eternal power and divine nature--<u>have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse</u>.

<u>For since the creation of the world</u> God's invisible qualities--His eternal power and divine nature: The purpose of all the uniqueness, genius, complexity, compatibility, and functionality of this planet are to help you know your heavenly Father exists. He expects you to look at it all and see His **invisible qualities--His eternal power and divine nature.** He expects you to use it to resist **the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.** He expects you to join Him and open your eyes, so you can help open the eyes of others who have also had **the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness** blind them.

Jesus, lead me away from all these temptations that **the godlessness and wickedness of men** are using **who suppress the truth by their wickedness.** Set me free from these things in such a way that I am able to help others see Your Creation and Your **invisible qualities--**Your **eternal power and divine nature.** Cleanse my mind of all the misinformation, deceptions, lies, and unscientific presentations. Help me see that I would have to devote myself to complete ignorance and unscientific information to reject Your account in Genesis.

Rejecting What They Know To Be True
Rom 1:21-22 (NIV) <u>For although they knew God</u>, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools. You are facing crossroads; this is what God is saying to you. All those you may have accepted as wise, knowledgeable, experts, scientists, successful, or trustworthy have positioned themselves against God. There is no middle of the road. You either believe that they are telling you the truth or God is. You either believe that **although they claimed to be wise, they became fools,** or God is wrong.

Jesus, help me see that I have been lied to. Evil people have rejected You and the Bible's account and presented me with an alternative to how I got here. I believe that **although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools.** I reject their teaching and their interpretation of this universe. I believe You created this planet in a totally mature, aged condition just like You did Adam and Eve.

Jesus, help me understand that it didn't take You billions of years to create Eve so You could give her to Adam. Help me see that You invented twenty-four-hour periods and said they were days. Help me see that if I were to test, at creation, the planet, the trees, and Adam and Eve, they would have tested as being older than they actually were. You put all the earth's resources of oil, gas, coal, and compost in the planet at the moment of creation. Help me see that, that is why these resources are still available after we have used up so much of them.

Chapter Twenty
Is There Really A Devil?

Week Two Day Five

The Procedures For Being Born Again

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus said in **Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray: "'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, <u>but deliver us from the evil one</u>.'**

But Deliver Us From The Evil One

A God-Given Free Will

Gen 1:26-27 (NIV) Then God said, "<u>Let Us make man in Our image, in Our likeness, and let them rule</u> over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Being created in God's image gave you a free will. But, it doesn't help to have a free will, if you don't have any choices. However, God has everything good in Himself. **James 1:17 (NIV) EVERY good and perfect gift is from above, <u>coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights</u>, Who does not change like shifting shadows.** This is Who He is! If you are going to get involved with anything good, it is resident in God. So, the only alternative is bad.

Jesus, help me understand that everything that is right, good, and righteous exists in, through, and from God. So, the only thing that I can exercise my free will on that is an alternative to those qualities is wrong, bad, and evil. But, for me to not be a robot or a slave, You had to give me the option of choosing those things, if I wanted them.

The Only Alternative

Gen 3:1 (NIV) Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "<u>Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden</u>'?" This really happened! This isn't an allegory. Satan really did enter into the serpent and give Adam and Eve an alternative choice. But, since all good was already given to them from God, their only choice was something evil. Satan wasn't the evil choice; he was just the carrier of that option. He was given the right to offer them the alternate choice.

Jesus, help me understand that I am reading about an actual event that took place at the beginning of all humans. Help me embrace this Biblical account because it is vital for explaining the kinds of problems I am facing in my life and especially in my body.

Engaging In Temptation

Gen 3:2-3 (NIV) The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" This is what you have been doing on another level. When you have seen things that your conscience was telling you were wrong, you went ahead and considered the pros and cons. You allowed yourself to give them some thought. You allowed some of the "benefits" to be presented to you *from Satan!* You didn't know it was Satan speaking to your mind. But, he has the right to offer you alternatives.

Jesus, teach me that these spiritual issues and systems are really going on against me. Help me realize that this is all being presented to me so I can learn how to live as a child of God. Help me see that I am just temporarily a human. This is just a training situation getting me ready to become a mature, adult child of God. Show me that I must learn these things, so that when I am born into this spiritual realm, I will cooperate with You and Your training.

Believing A Lie

Gen 3:4-5 (NIV) "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." This is a part of the alternative system. You either believe God and the Bible or you believe Satan and his people. God is telling you that things are one way and your body, the world, and Satan are telling you it is another way.

Jesus, help me see what actually happened to Adam and Eve. Help me see how Satan and his temptations work. Show me that if I am going to allow you to **deliver** me **from the evil one,** I must yield to Your words and Your truths. Help me see that even though You want to deliver me, my God-given free will can keep you from doing it.

Suffering The Consequences

Gen 3:6-7 (NIV) When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Your ancestors, Adam and Eve contracted the spiritual disease of sin for two reasons. One, they disobeyed God's command. They trusted their own opinions and evaluations and sinned against themselves, their posterity, and God. Two, once they ate, they knew the difference between right and wrong. From that point on, *everything* was a sin that they did anyway that their conscience told them was wrong, bad, or evil.

Jesus, help me understand that I inherited my knowledge of right and wrong from Adam and Eve. Help me also understand that I inherited my **sinful nature** from them. Show me that the reason I am having so much trouble with temptations is because of my body wanting sin.

"How Do I Become A Christian Now?" Section Three

Chapter Twenty-One
How Do I Accept God As My Father?

Week One Day One

The Steps For Being Born Again

The Lord's Prayer Modified For You

Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray: "'My **Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give** me **today** my **daily bread. Forgive** me my **debts, as** I **also have forgiven** my **debtors. And lead** me **not into temptation, but deliver** me **from the evil one.'**

My Father In Heaven

Making It Personal

This, then, is how you should pray: Jesus' prayer has been modified for you to pray, so you can be born again. All the "our, us, and we" words have been changed to "my, me, and I." This has to be done for this special occasion when you obey Jesus and pray this prayer just for you. After this, the prayer goes back to being a prayer you pray each day for you and all the other Christians in the world. As your "sinner's" prayer, it covers all your spiritual needs.

Jesus, get me ready to say these words from my heart. Help me obey You and pray this segment with all sincerity and intense desire. Help me believe that when I pray this, it will invite God into my heart and life as my heavenly Father. Speak faith into me so I can know that when I say it, I immediately become His child, a member of His family, and a citizen of His Kingdom. Let the Holy Spirit speak assurance to my spirit that it actually happened.

Being Born Again Gives You A New Father

John 3:6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. It is vital that you understand that this is what it takes to be born again. Just like this is the first time you have ever been a human, this will be your first time to be a child of God. It was all new to you, as a human. And, it will all be new to you, as a child of God. You are getting a new spirit inside your body.

Jesus, help me understand that just because this is all new to me, doesn't make it unbelievable. Help me accept the laws, rules, and procedures of the spirit realm to be just as real to me as the laws, rules, and procedures of the human realm are. Help me accept that faith is me believing that You are telling me the truth. If I don't believe that this is really happening to me, it isn't just a matter of personal opinion, it is me indicating that You are lying to me.

You Must Believe Two Things

Heb 11:6 (NIV) And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

And without faith it is impossible to please God: As with all of Christianity, God never requires anything of you that He doesn't first provide it to you. In this case, you are being required to have faith in order to please God. So, here is your faith from Jesus: **Heb 12:2a (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith….**

Jesus, I now **fix** my **eyes on** You. Empower me to believe that when I say, "my Father in heaven," He will instantly become my Father. Help me, from that point on, believe that it is true of me. Help me never doubt that fact, as I go through the rest of my life. I believe in You, Jesus, as my **Author and Perfecter of** my **faith.** I believe in You, Jesus, as my Savior, Lord, and King. You are making this prayer, You gave me to pray, cause me to be born again.

The Two Step Prayer

1. **Anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists:** My Father in heaven, I believe that You exist. I believe that You are preparing my heart and life for my new birth as Your child. I believe You are making me a member of Your family. And, I believe You are making me a citizen of Your eternal Kingdom.

2. **Anyone who comes to Him must believe that…He rewards those who earnestly seek Him:** My Father in heaven, I believe that because You have empowered me to know You exist and because You have empowered me to say "my Father in heaven," You have rewarded me with being Your child. You have **rewarded** me for **earnestly seeking** You. I believe I am now your child, a member of Your family, and a citizen of Your Kingdom. I thank You for saving me and transforming me into a child of God!

God IS Your Dear Father

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." Dear heavenly Father, I love You and accept You as my eternal Father forever! Thank You for helping me believe that I can now come before You and get the changes in my attitudes and character that I need for my life. I want to be like You in holiness, godliness, righteousness, and love.

The Holy Spirit Is Your Assurance

Rom 8:16 (NIV) The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Dear heavenly Father, let Your Holy Spirit give me the constant assurance that I am Your child. Help me accept that He is now inside me and is speaking to me Spirit-to-spirit. Help me see that, just like He has been speaking to my conscience telling me what is right and wrong, He is now speaking to my spirit telling me I am Your child.

Chapter Twenty-Two
Why Would I Thank God For Trouble?

Week One Day Two

The Steps For Being Born Again

The Lord's Prayer Modified For You
Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray: "'My **Father in heaven, <u>hallowed be Your name</u>, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give** me **today** my **daily bread. Forgive** me my **debts, as** I **also have forgiven** my **debtors. And lead** me **not into temptation, but deliver** me **from the evil one.'**

Hallowed Be Your Name

Relationship Growth
Keep moving forward in your faith and in your relationship with God. When Satan tries to talk to you about whether or not your "my Father in heaven" prayer worked, start praising your heavenly Father for making you His child. Don't listen to Satan; don't talk to Him; and don't allow any doubts to come into your mind that challenge the *fact* that you *are* a child of God!

My Father in heaven, empower me to move forward in my relationship with You. Help me not discuss with Satan whether or not my prayer worked. Rather, help me just go into a complete praise and worship, thanking You for being my Father in heaven. Help me grow in seeing how great and wonderful You are. Build great appreciation and thankfulness in my heart for what just happened to me. **Hollowed be Your name!**

Faith That Wins
Heb 11:6 (NIV) And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. You believe God exists; and, you believe He rewarded you for saying, "my Father in heaven." However, that wasn't just a moment of faith. Let Jesus speak into your heart the *constant* fact that God **rewards those who earnestly seek Him.**

Heb 12:2a (NIV) Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith…. Jesus, You are my Savior, Lord, and King! I believe in You! My faith isn't in my ability to believe that God **rewards those who earnestly seek Him.** My faith is in Your power-faith, You have spoken into me. You have empowered me to know for a fact that God **rewards those who earnestly seek Him.** I know He made me His child and that settles it.

Jesus, teach me that none of Christianity is a pressure on me to perform. Empower me to **fix** my **eyes on** You**, the Author and Perfecter of** my **faith.** Help me know that Your power-faith will empower me to resist and ignore all thought or feelings that try to get me to doubt that God **rewards those who earnestly seek Him.** Help me simply praise Him for saving me.

Hallowed Be Your Name

Rom 15:8-11 (NIV) For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs so that the Gentiles may glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: "Therefore I will praise You among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to Your name." Again, it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people." And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to Him, all you peoples."

Whether you are a Jew or a Gentile, the more you spend time being thankful for what Jesus did through His prayer, the more you will stay solid in your faith that God *is* your heavenly Father. Anytime you feel down, have a doubt, or feel separated from your heavenly Father, your solution is to start praising and thanking Him for making you His child. Don't let your emotions or Satan's attacks win. Your weapon against it all is to praise your heavenly Father for being powerful enough to **reward** you for **earnestly seeking** Him.

Jesus, help me not spend one second on yielding to negative emotions or satanic attacks that try to cause me to doubt the honesty and integrity of my Father in heaven. Help me immediately start thanking and praising Him for making me His child. Help me believe and trust Him over my feelings and Satan's lies. Help me take advantage of the fact that I now can directly talk to Him and You about anything that is bothering me.

Troubles Build Experiences

2 Cor 1:3-4 (NIV) PRAISE be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, Who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

You may not just want comfort from God. You may want Him to deliver you from all troubles. But, you aren't on this planet and you weren't made a child of God to make this your heaven. Just like going to school, college, a university, or a trade school isn't a place to relax and take a vacation, this life isn't going to be heaven on earth. You are in training for ruling and reigning with Jesus in eternity. Troubles are your life-classes for teaching you how to win at life.

Jesus, help me praise God for giving me comfort during times of training. Help me appreciate the education I am getting so I can comfort and help people who are suffering. Help me thank Him for the privilege of experiencing trouble so I can understand what others are going through. Help me take advantage of it so I can feel their pain, understand their situation, and want to be there for them. Help me learn everything I can from all the trouble I go through.

Jesus, help me not just go through trouble. While I am praising God for the opportunity to take that life-class, help me understand that my assignment is to learn how to win over it. If I don't learn that, then I can't help others join You in winning over their troubles. Help me be a comfort to them by assuring them that You can teach them how to win over their troubles.

Chapter Twenty-Three
How Is God's Kingdom Different?

Week One Day Three

The Steps For Being Born Again

The Lord's Prayer Modified For You
Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray: "'My **Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, <u>Your kingdom come</u>, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give** me **today** my **daily bread. Forgive** me my **debts, as** I **also have forgiven** my **debtors. And lead** me **not into temptation, but deliver** me **from the evil one.'**

Your Kingdom Come

Qualifying For Entering Into God's Eternal Kingdom
John 3:3, 5 (NIV) In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, <u>no one can see the kingdom of God</u> unless he is born again." Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, <u>no one can enter the kingdom of God unless</u> he is born of water and the Spirit."

The moment you said, my Father in heaven, you confessed with your mouth that He *is* your Father. You accepted Him *as* your Father. You *believed* that Jesus' prayer had the *power* to make you a child of God by saying those words. Now, because you did that, you believe you qualify for the Kingdom of God to let you in.

My heavenly Father, I now say: "Your Kingdom come!" I now invite Your Kingdom into my heart and life. I believe that by saying: "Your Kingdom come," You have put Your Kingdom into my heart and life. I believe that I am now a part of Your eternal Kingdom. I thank You for making me a citizen of Your eternal Kingdom.

Jesus, help me realize that by saying, **Your Kingdom come,** I invited God's eternal Kingdom into my life. Remind me that You have already taken me through the studies and prayers over the laws and rules that govern kingdoms and nations. Help me see that I have not only become a child of God, I have become a citizen of His Kingdom. Help me understand that, that put me under *His* rules and laws that empower me to *live* them.

The Kingdom Starts Inside You
Luke 17:20 (NIV) Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' <u>because the kingdom of God is within you</u>." You now have the Kingdom of God inside you to start with. Since you are surrounded by this world and its kingdoms, you must have God's Kingdom inside you so you can learn how it works. It is very different from what you are used to.

Jesus, based on a childlike attitude, help me feel Your Kingdom inside me. Help me allow it to influence my thinking and feeling. Help me start living according to its rules, laws, and regulations. Help me see that it is supernatural and often supersedes the natural laws of this planet. Help me accept these facts like a little child who is experiencing these things for the first time. Give me that matter-of-fact childlike faith that children use to accept natural things.

Looking From A New Perspective

Luke 18:16-17 (NIV) But Jesus called the children to Him and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." A little child is new to the planet. They look at all those things you have long since taken for granted and see them as amazing and new. Jesus wants you to see these spiritual things from this same perspective. Take this attitude now that you have God's Kingdom in you.

Jesus, help me enter into Your eternal Kingdom with a childlike attitude. Help me approach it with an open heart of wonder and amazement. Help me allow You to teach me how it works, so I can be ready for ruling and reigning with You in eternity. Give me Your power-mind that is able to understand spiritual things with great ability. But, also help me use it with a humility and desire to learn everything You have to teach me.

The Kingdom Requires Training

1 Cor 2:11-13 (NIV) For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit Who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

Jesus wants to teach and train you how to live in the Kingdom of God. His purpose for putting you on this planet was so you could decide whether or not you wanted to become a child of God. And, now that you have become a child of God, His next assignment for you is to help you become a trained, experienced, talented, skilled, mature, adult child of God.

Jesus, I thank You for empowering me to become a child of God. Now, help me cooperate with You as You train me for being an experienced, talented, skilled, mature, adult child of God. Help me enter into eternity as one who allow You to give me everything I need for ruling and reigning with You over the nations of the world.

Jesus, let this Kingdom of God, that is inside me, develop into rules, laws, and regulations that are supernatural. Set me free from the limitations of the rules, laws, and regulations of this natural world. Help me not see them as limiting those things You want to do in, for, to, with, and through me. I give you my life so You can take it and use it to train me as a citizen of Your eternal Kingdom.

Chapter Twenty-Four
How Do I Know What God's Will Is?

Week One Day Four

The Steps For Being Born Again

The Lord's Prayer Modified For You
Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray: "'My **Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, <u>Your will be done</u> on earth as it is in heaven. Give** me **today** my **daily bread. Forgive** me my **debts, as** I **also have forgiven** my **debtors. And lead** me **not into temptation, but deliver** me **from the evil one.'**

Your Will Be Done

Jesus' Approach To The Father's Will
John 6:38-40 (NIV) For I (Jesus) have come down from heaven not to do My will but to do the will of Him Who sent Me. And this is the will of Him Who sent Me, that I shall lose none of all that He has given Me, but raise them up at the last day. For My Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise Him up at the last day."

As you can see, Jesus was subjected to His Father's will. Jesus knew that the Father's will was perfect. When you have a will that is perfect, it can't be improved on. But, because God created you in His own image, you have a God-given free will. If your will is different from God's will, God will allow you to control your life with your will and not His.

Jesus, sometimes it is hard for me to not live according to my will. Because I have evidences that indicate that I should do things a certain way, it is hard for me to realize I don't have all the facts. Help me open my heart to God's will, so I can experience how much better His will is than mine. Help me not feel like I am giving up my uniqueness but am learning a new way.

Turning Your Will Over To God
Mat 7:21 (NIV) Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, <u>but only he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven</u>. How is this not just you becoming a slave or robot to your Father's will? This works on a moment-by-moment and issue-by-issue basis. You *never* lose your free will to God. You do, if you give it to humans or to Satan, but never to God. All day long, you will have to make a choice as to whether you will go God's way or your way. You can't just turn your will over to God and be done with it.

Jesus, help me learn to so trust God that, all during my day, I will have turned my will over to His will. Help me see the benefits, as I face each individual decision of my day. Help me do it for a long enough period of time where I learn to completely trust Him with my whole life.

The Characteristics Of God's Will

Only he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven, will enter the kingdom of heaven: This sounds like, if you want to go to heaven, you *must* do the will of God; and, that is true. That would *seem* to bring you back to being a slave or a robot. However, God's will isn't involved in everything you do. *What* you do doesn't matter to God as much as *how* you do it and *why* you do it. Obviously, God does care *what* you do, if you sin.

Jesus, help me realize that God mainly cares about my attitudes and character. He cares about fairness, honesty, morality, justice, and love. Help me see that there are a lot of things that I might do that wouldn't break God's will. If they are done the right, good, and righteous way, they will fall inside God's will. But, if they are done the wrong, bad, or evil way, they will fall outside God's will. With that in mind, help me do my Father's will.

Getting God's Will

Isa 55:8-9 (NIV) "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. "<u>As the heavens are higher than the earth</u>, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." The thing about your heavenly Father is, He is willing to share His thoughts with you. First of all, the Bible will give you the brilliant principles that involve fairness, honesty, morality, justice, and love. Then, in addition to that, He will share ideas, wisdom, goals, and plans that will enhance your life physically, financially, emotionally, and relationally.

Jesus, help me see that the Bible is dealing mostly with spiritual issues. Show me that they are working on my relationship with myself, other people, and You. Teach me all of those principles so why and do what I do will be godly, pure, honest, moral, fair, and win/win. Also help me see that You want me to succeed in life so people can see that Your Biblical principles work in all aspects of life. Let me show them that once they give their life over to You and Your principles, everything works out for their good.

No Matter What Happens

Rom 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in ALL THINGS <u>God works for the good of those who love Him</u>, who have been called according to His purpose. God's will is based on making sure everything that comes your way works out for your good. When you cooperate with God's will, you move into where *all things* work out for your good. God never makes a mistake; but, that doesn't mean you can give your life over to Him and never have to worry about it again. **God works for the good of <u>those who love Him</u>!** Jesus said: **"<u>If you love Me</u>, you will obey what I command (John 14:15)."** That is a decision you make all day long, every day.

Jesus, help me make decisions all day long that are according to God's will. Help me learn the characteristics of God's will so I will know what it typically looks like. Help me always be able to tell whether something is godly, pure, honest, moral, fair, and win/win. Let me stay in touch with You so You can guide me according to Biblical issues. Help me keep studying and praying so more and more of Your truths will come into my mind and heart.

Chapter Twenty-Five
How Do I Start Doing God's Will On Earth?

Week One Day Five

The Steps For Being Born Again

The Lord's Prayer Modified For You

Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray: "'My **Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, <u>Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven</u>. Give** me **today** my **daily bread. Forgive** me my **debts, as** I **also have forgiven** my **debtors. And lead** me **not into temptation, but deliver** me **from the evil one.'**

Your Will Be Done On Earth As It Is In Heaven

Learning How To Succeed

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. First, you need to study and pray for yourself so you will be living on this earth according to God's will. At first, all you have any influence over, as it relates to God's will, is yourself. But, as you continue to grow, you will get more and more breakthroughs in your life. Jesus will teach greater and greater Biblical principles for how to succeed in life. Those principles must be shared with those around you.

Jesus, help me understand that it is my responsibility to let You teach me how to succeed in life. As you set me free from those things that are keeping me from succeeding, help me share those breakthroughs with those around me. As you replace those things that were hindering me with powerful Biblical principles, help me share those too. Help me see that this system will help Your will be done in more and more people's lives **on earth.**

Stay Away

2 Tim 3:1-5 (NIV) But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God--having a form of godliness but denying its power. <u>Have nothing to do with them</u>.

There are people who will not give their life over to God's will. When you see these kinds of people, it is God's will for you to **have nothing to do with them.** He doesn't want you to be contaminated by them. And, He does want you to be busy being influenced by and influencing those who will submit to God's will. **Mat 7:6 (NIV) Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, <u>they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces</u>.**

Jesus, help me understand that I can't help everyone on earth yield to Your will. Help me find those who will eventually start doing Your will, so I can help them. And, help me find those who are doing Your will, so I can join them. Use me to live Your will on earth; and, help me lead others into living You will while they are on this earth.

Join A Group

Heb 10:25 (NIV) Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Find a church or small group that are desirous to do God's will. Join them in working together to get God's will fulfilled in your and their lives. Work with them to go out and help others start doing God's will in their lives.

Jesus, help me not just try to do Your will alone. Help me join a group that will help me live your will. And, let me help them do Your will in their lives. Then help us go out and find those who will give their lives over to You so they can start doing Your will in their lives. Help us also assist those who are physically and financially needy.

Join A Ministry

Mark 16:15 (NIV) He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation." There Christian ministries that are devoted to helping people join Jesus and get their physical and spiritual needs met. They may be separate from any church. As Jesus helps you feel an interest in assisting certain types of people start doing God's will, join one that has similar interests as you do. Let Jesus guide you to people who are already doing those things He is inspiring your heart to do.

Jesus, lead me to certain specialists that are being inspired by You to reach out to certain types of needs that are an interest to me. Help me see what You are causing me to be interested in. Show me how You have given me life-classes that have helped to train me for certain types of ministry. Help me get the training I need so I can be a better asset to that ministry.

Start Giving

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." Start out on a small scale giving your time, effort, and money to ministries and needy people. As you do, ask Jesus to help you see Him prosper you in those areas. Ask Him to help you not just use all that extra time and money on yourself. Ask Him to help you see this prosperity and start sharing it with others.

Jesus, help me find places for me to start out slow and small. Help me start investing in people and organizations with my time, effort, and money. Then as You prosper me in those resources, help me increase my investments so you can keep the time, effort, and money increasing. Help me get to the place where I am able to share a lot of time, effort, and money to bringing Your will on this earth just like it is being done in heaven.

Chapter Twenty-Six
How Do I Make Enough Money?

Week Two Day One

The Steps For Being Born Again

The Lord's Prayer Modified For You

Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray: "'My **Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give** me **today** my **daily bread. Forgive** me my **debts, as** I **also have forgiven** my **debtors. And lead** me **not into temptation, but deliver** me **from the evil one.'**

Give Me Today My Daily Bread

A Slave To Money

Mat 6:24 (NIV) No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money. You have to have money to buy those things your body needs. You may not have been conservative in your spending up to this point and may have a lot of bills. And, you must pay your bills. But, if you end up in eternity having spent very little time, effort, and money on those things that count for eternity, that will be sad and a major waste of time.

Jesus, help me see that I need to take my time, effort, and money and bring them before You. I already have some areas where I no longer have control over them. But, help me realize that You have a way for me to start out small and gradually get set free in those areas. Help me find ways to start investing in places You pick for me to make contributions.

Gradual Deliverance

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. It is very important that you let Jesus help you make changes in your time, effort, and money. If you try to make these changes, it will be human effort and it won't turn out well. If your physical needs are taking up most of your time, effort, and money, then it will take a miracle to set you free and get you on the right path.

Jesus, show me how to find some time, some energy, and some money that I can take out of my resources and start this Luke 6:38 principle working. Help me take the right time, effort, and money that You want me to use for this project. Then, when the results come out of that investment, help me recognize that it is coming my way because of Luke 6:38. Once that happens, help me have the will and power to not use them on the wrong thing. Help me get guidance from You for where You want them reinvested.

Priority Adjustments

Mat 6:33 (NIV) But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these THINGS will be given to you as well. If most of your time, effort, and money are being spent on *things,* you will need to add more things to this spiritual effort of study and prayer. You will need to get Jesus' help adding Bible reading (audio Bible reading will work), attending church and a small group, listening to good Christian music, reading good Christian books (audio book reading will work), and prayer. Jesus will have to work miracles for you to do this.

Jesus, help me understand that as I give You priority in my life, You start blessing me with those things that are currently taking up most of my time. Rather than me spending most of my time, effort, and money taking care of my physical needs, as I start adding spiritual input into my life, You will start prospering me. You will start freeing up some of my time, effort, and money. You will help me have more time, effort, and money for those things You want.

Brilliant Ideas

James 1:5 (NIV) If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, Who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. Rather than getting your daily needs met by sources that dominate the hours of your life, Jesus can give you His wisdom that will come up with incredible ways of getting all your needs met. His wisdom will help you get the resources without you using up your life taking care of your body's needs. It is just a matter of praying and asking Him to put His wisdom in your mind. Then, just start believing that you have His wisdom. Start looking for ways to get your physical needs met without having to sacrifice your whole life doing it.

Phil 4:19 (NIV) And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Jesus, I ask You for Your wisdom to fill my mind. Help me believe that You have heard and answered this request. Help me get great ideas that bring in the resources I need so I can have my daily needs met. Help me be open to ideas that will supply my needs without me devoting all my time to earning a living. Then help me start getting more than enough resources so I can help others with their needs. Let the finances and supplies flow into my life in larger and larger quantities as I give to the needs of others.

Rom 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Jesus, help my circumstances to work out in such a way that I am prospered and blessed with many resources. Help me be at the right place, at the right time, doing and saying the right things, to the right people. Help me not waste time on things that won't help me be prospered and blessed. Show me how to follow Your guidance and be where I am supposed to be. Let me flow in Your leadership so You can make everything in my life work for my and other's good.

Chapter Twenty-Seven
Why Do I Have To Repent?

Week Two Day Two

The Steps For Being Born Again

The Lord's Prayer Modified For You

Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray: "'My **Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give** me **today** my **daily bread. Forgive** me my **debts, as** I **also have forgiven** my **debtors. And lead** me **not into temptation, but deliver** me **from the evil one.'**

Forgive Me My Sins

Identifying The Darkness

1 John 1:5-6 (NIV) This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light; in Him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with Him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. You can't ask your heavenly Father to forgive you of your sins, if you don't know what sin is. That is what the Holy Spirit and the Bible have been drawing out for you. Sin is a darkness because it separates you from the light of God. If you will move toward God right now, you will come into the light.

Jesus, lead me into a relationship with my heavenly Father that drives out all the darkness of sin. Help me let Him shine His light on my words and deeds so I can see what sins I have committed. Then, as He shows me where I am sinning, help me tell Him I am sorry and repent and turn away from them in my mind and in the activities of my life.

Born To Live

1 John 1:7 (NIV) But if we WALK in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin. It isn't enough for a baby to be born. The objective is for it to continue living. You must enter into the light of being born again and stay in that light. You must ask to be forgiven of your past sins, while desiring to be delivered from your current and future sins. God is giving you a perfect record as you move into this part of Jesus' prayer. But, it must be your desire to stop sinning and walk in the light. To **walk in the light** is to be born in the light and to live in the light.

Jesus, help me see that I must give up all the darkness of my old life. Show me everything I need you to set me free from. Help me be willing to give it up because I know You have a light that is much better than that darkness. Help me give up all those things that will take me back into sin through my current and future feelings, thoughts, words, and deeds. And, I thank You for empowering me to join You in that way of light. Heavenly Father, I ask You to forgive me of all my past sins. And, I thank You for doing that for me right now.

You Aren't Perfect

1 John 1:8 (NIV) If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Because you just asked your heavenly Father to forgive you, you now have a perfect record with Him. But, you will *not* live a perfect life. As the Holy Spirit shows you things that you are about to do that are wrong, if you find yourself doing them against your will, don't try to cover them up. Immediately go to God and tell Him you are sorry, ask Him to forgive you, repent by committing yourself to never do it again, ask Him to empower you to never do it again, and then go make it right with those you hurt through that sin.

Jesus, help me realize my heavenly Father just gave me a perfect record with Him. Help me understand that, that will not give me a perfect record with myself and other people. I will still be hurting myself and them because of a sinful nature that is in my body. Help me be ready to tell Him I am sorry about those misdeeds of my body and ask Him to forgive me for them. Help me ask Him to empower me to never do it again. Then help me go make it right with those I hurt.

In Spite Of Your Perfect Record With God

1 John 1:9 (NIV) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Jesus is training you and helping you do less and less wrong, bad, and evil things to yourself and others. And, He is empowering you to do more and more right, good, and righteous things to yourself and others. But, while He is doing this in you, you have a perfect record with God so you won't be cut off from Jesus' help.

Jesus, while You are training me to change in my attitudes and character, help me listen to the Holy Spirit speak to my conscience. When He indicates that I have done something wrong, bad, or evil to myself or others, help me come to You and confess it, ask for forgiveness, repent of it (commit to never doing it again), ask You to empower me to never do it again, and go make it right with those I hurt.

When The Holy Spirit Says You Did

1 John 1:10 (NIV) If we claim we have not sinned, we make Him out to be a liar and His word has no place in our lives. Listen to the Holy Spirit, when He warns you that you are about to do something wrong. But, when you find your body pushing you into it anyway, don't try to just do better next time--confess your sin.

1 John 2:1 (NIV) My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have One Who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. Jesus, help me listen to the Holy Spirit, when He warns me. Help me realize that I must immediately start praying for Your power to obey Him. Show me that if I just try to not do it, I will fail. Help me understand that my body will win against my human determination and resistance. Help me give myself over to a full dependence on You for empowering me to resist temptations and sins.

Chapter Twenty-Eight
Who All Do I Have To Forgive?

Week Two Day Three

The Steps For Being Born Again

The Lord's Prayer Modified For You
Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray: "'My **Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give** me **today** my **daily bread. Forgive** me my **debts, as** I **also have forgiven** my **debtors. And lead** me **not into temptation, but deliver** me **from the evil one.'**

Forgive Me My Sins,
As I Also Have Forgiven Those Who Sinned Against Me

As I Also Have Forgiven Those Who Have Sinned Against Me
Mat 6:14-15 (NIV) For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will NOT forgive your sins. These are the verses right after The Lord's Prayer, you are praying. In other words, Jesus gives these rules for this prayer. God's forgiveness of your sins is *based on* your forgiveness of those who have sinned, are sinning, and will sin against you. You don't have to remain close to a person sinning against you; but, you do have to forgive them.

Jesus, empower me to forgive those who sin against me. Help me give up my desires to get even, get revenge, or hold a grudge against them. Help me realize that I don't have to forget what they did. Help me not keep exposing myself to evil people. But, help me keep asking You for Your power-forgiveness so I can completely forgive them.

The Same Person
Mat 18:21-22 (NIV) Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. If you are in a situation where a family member or a spouse is *making mistakes,* you are to keep forgiving them. In this case, you aren't to be memorizing their number of mistakes or sins. **1 Cor 13:5 (NIV) It (love) is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.**

Jesus, help me stay away from those who sin against me, as much as is possible. But, for those I am obligated to maintain a relationship with, help me deal with their mistakes, mistreatment, and sins. Help me forgive them; but, help me confront them with Your Word. Teach me how to handle those whom I am must help to live the Christian life.

Preparing To Help A Friend

Mat 7:2-5 (NIV) For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, <u>first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye</u>.

Before you go try to help someone else with their attitudes and character, go before Jesus about how you have treated them, how you have treated others, and how pure you are in the areas where you are going to be dealing with this person. Make sure you have a breakthrough in this area of your life before you try to help someone else this this issue.

Jesus, help me not be judgmental; but, help me use the Bible as the criteria for me getting the plank out of my eye and then using it to help get the speck out of my friend's eye. Help me be just as analytical of myself as I am of others. Help me to be sure to forgive them before I try to go help them with their attitudes and character. Help me work with them because I love them and want them to stand before You on the judgment day with a pure heart.

Steps To Helping A Friend

Mat 18:15-17 (NIV) If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

These are the steps for a Christian that keeps sinning against you or against themselves. After you have used Jesus' power-forgiveness to forgive them of everything they had done to you, you would take these steps for helping them repent and be healed of their sinning. But, if they won't, then this is also how to treat them in that case.

Jesus, help me *not* work with others until I have allowed You to work with me in that same area. Help me see that I will have other areas where I will always need work. But, if I have a breakthrough in the area where my friend needs work, help me go work with them by sharing Your Scriptures with them and praying with them.

<u>Heavenly Father, forgive me my sins, as I also have forgiven those who have sinned against me</u>. I thank You for forgiving me of my past, current, and future sins. I thank You for giving me a perfect record with You. Help me always have the Romans 7:15 attitude toward sin and righteousness. **Rom 7:15 (NIV) I do not understand what I do. For what I WANT to do I do not do, but what I HATE I do.** Help me continue these studies and prayers so Jesus can empower and train me how to do less and less sinning and more and more righteousness.

Chapter Twenty-Nine
Why Would I Need Discipline?

Week Two Day Four

The Steps For Being Born Again

The Lord's Prayer Modified For You

Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray: "'My **Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give** me **today** my **daily bread. Forgive** me my **debts, as** I **also have forgiven** my **debtors. <u>And lead</u>** me **<u>not into temptation</u>, but deliver** me **from the evil one.'**

And Lead Me Not Into Temptation

Learning About God's Discipline

Heb 12:5-6 (NIV) And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son." God doesn't just punish you so as to show you He loves you. You have to do something that merits that discipline. But, if you do something that requires discipline, the only reason He disciplines you for it, is because He loves you very much.

Gal 6:7-8 (NIV) Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Jesus, help me understand that whether I sin accidently or on purpose, I *will* reap the results of that deed. Help me see that my heavenly Father disciplines me because I need to do what it takes to not reap sin's consequences. Help me live a righteous life more and more each day.

You Will Never Be Perfect

Heb 12:7-8 (NIV) <u>Endure hardship as discipline</u>; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), <u>then you are illegitimate children and not true sons</u>. You are a child of God; if you weren't, He would let you do whatever you wanted. He wouldn't invest in your behavior because you were giving yourself over to your body, the world, and the devil.

Rom 8:28 (NIV) And we know that in all things God <u>works for the good</u> of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Jesus, teach me that **"works for the good**" means that *in the end*, it will turn out good. Show me that my heavenly Father uses **hardship as discipline.** But, He allows **hardship** because I sowed some kind of word or deed in me or others that was wrong, bad, or evil. Teach me that if I won't do the right thing because I love Him, He will help me do the right thing because He disciplined me.

Sometimes It Takes Discipline

Heb 12:9 (NIV) Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness. There will be times when you just won't listen to the Holy Spirit speaking to your conscience and your spirit. There will be times when you will want something so bad, you won't refrain from doing something wrong, bad, or evil. When that happens, God will discipline you so you won't continue in that direction.

Heb 12:11 (NIV) No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. Jesus, help me see that, if I get stubborn, I am heading into a deadly path. Help me understand that this is an eternal issue. Show me that once I determine to head down the wrong path, if I don't turn and repent, I cut myself off from God. Help me respond to my heavenly Father's discipline so I will turn and repent of my bad decision.

Discipline Is Important

Rom 1:21 (NIV) For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. God knows what He is doing; He knows when you are heading down a deadly path. He knows when you aren't going to respond to love, grace, mercy, and wisdom. He *is* your heavenly Father and loves you with a supernatural love. He uses His knowledge, foreknowledge of the future, understanding, and wisdom to make His decisions about what you need so as to keep you heading into His eternal Kingdom.

Rom 1:24 (NIV) Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. Jesus, don't let go of me; help me **endure hardship as discipline.** Help me not get mad, frustrated, feel sorry for myself, or doubt my heavenly Father's wisdom and love. Help me realize He is disciplining me because He loves me and is trying to save me from eternal damnation.

Lead Me Not Into Temptation

It is vital that you realize that the only way God would lead you into temptation would be because you were stubbornly heading down a destructive path. When you pray this, you are asking your heavenly Father to help you not make decisions that would require this kind of treatment. He isn't going to lead you into temptation for any other reason.

Jesus, help me see sin and satanic temptations as being extremely evil. Help me not be deceived by my body, the world, or the devil in such a way that I change my mind about sin. Help me not be confused, deceived, misled, lied to, or tempted into something that will require my heavenly Father's discipline. Heavenly Father, lead me not into temptation. Help me never need this kind of treatment. Help me do everything I do because I love You, trust You, and submit to You. Thank You for helping me start living a righteous life.

Chapter Thirty
What's Wrong With Fighting Humans?

Week Two Day Five

The Steps For Being Born Again

The Lord's Prayer Modified For You

Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) This, then, is how you should pray: "'My **Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give** me **today** my **daily bread. Forgive** me my **debts, as** I **also have forgiven** my **debtors. And lead** me **not into temptation, <u>but deliver</u>** me **<u>from the evil one</u>.'**

But Deliver Me From The Evil One

It's A Join Effort

James 4:7 (NIV) Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Getting delivered from the evil one, Satan, is a two-part process. Because you are going to be a part of being delivered **from the evil one,** you must learn how to so submit to God that you are able to **resist the devil, and he will flee from you.** The devil doesn't want to flee from you; and, he won't unless he is *forced* to. Evil won't flee unless it is confronted with a power greater than itself. So, that makes submitting to God vital for resisting the devil.

Jesus, help me learn how to totally submit to God. Help me understand that submission to Him is vital for me being able to win over the devil. Help me realize that I am going to have to learn how to submit to You so I can defeat Satan when he comes to tempt me. Show me that this is a vital part of my daily prayer, so I can make godly, righteous decisions all during my day. Help me learn all the procedures for submission to God and resistance toward Satan.

Power For Deliverance

Eph 6:10 (NIV) Finally, BE strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. When the Bible says something like this, it isn't a suggestion, it isn't a command, and it isn't instructions. This is a creative word like when Jesus told the storm to calm down. When you read the Bible and come across verses like this, you have to read them with faith. You have to hear them speak God's **mighty power** into you. This is a creative verse that is creating power in you.

Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power: Jesus, I accept this as You speaking Your **mighty power** into me so I can resist the devil and Him flee from me. However, I understand that because I haven't learned how to properly submit to God, it will take some training on how to yield to Your **mighty power.** But, help me understand that now that I have read and believed this verse, it is in me. Teach me how to properly submit to God so I can yield to it.

Armor For Deliverance

Eph 6:11 (NIV) Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. Jesus will be teaching you how to put this armor on. It will typically be a one-time process. You will put it on and leave it on. Once you have it on, it will protect you from the temptations of the devil. When he puts an idea or an emotion in your mind or heart, you will be able to identify it as from Satan, get a verse of Scripture from the Bible, apply it to the situation, and make the devil flee from you.

Jesus, help me keep studying and praying over all these wonderful Bible principles. Help me see that You are using them to teach me how to submit to God, get the **full armor of God** on, and then use it to resist the temptations of the devil. Help me understand that You are training me on how to live the victorious Christian life.

Identifying The Enemy

Eph 6:12 (NIV) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Stop Fighting Humans

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood: This is talking about you and other humans. Your and everyone else's bodies are **flesh and blood.** When you fight yourself or other people, you are battling, arguing, and hurting the wrong enemy. Satan is influencing you and them.

Jesus, teach me how to stop fighting myself and other humans. Teach me how to fight against **the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.** Teach me how to stop making myself and others my enemy. Lead me into spiritual warfare, where I gain great earthly and heavenly victories. Thank You for helping me see who my real enemy is.

Start Fighting Your Real Enemy

For our struggle is…against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms: This is a new concept for you; but, the instigator of all your battles with yourself and other people is Satan.

Eph 6:13 (NIV) Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Jesus, I thank You for helping me see that I have been fighting the wrong enemy. Teach me what my tools and weapons look like, so I can start fighting and winning over Satan. But, in the meantime, since I don't know how to fight spiritually or how to use my tools and weapons, help me pray this prayer: Heavenly Father, **deliver** me **from the evil one.**

Jesus, help me realize that I will always be praying, **deliver** me **from the evil one,** even when I am skilled, talented, experienced, and successful at it. This is so I never invite Satan to me.

Conclusion

There are a lot of vital resources that you need to move into as soon as possible. You are now born again and are ready to start living the victorious Christian life. But, you need daily input just like you need physical food. You are a spirit being living in a physical body. It must be fed or it will get spiritually weak like your body gets physically weak.

How To Become A Christian
After New Birth For Christians
After New Birth For Mentors