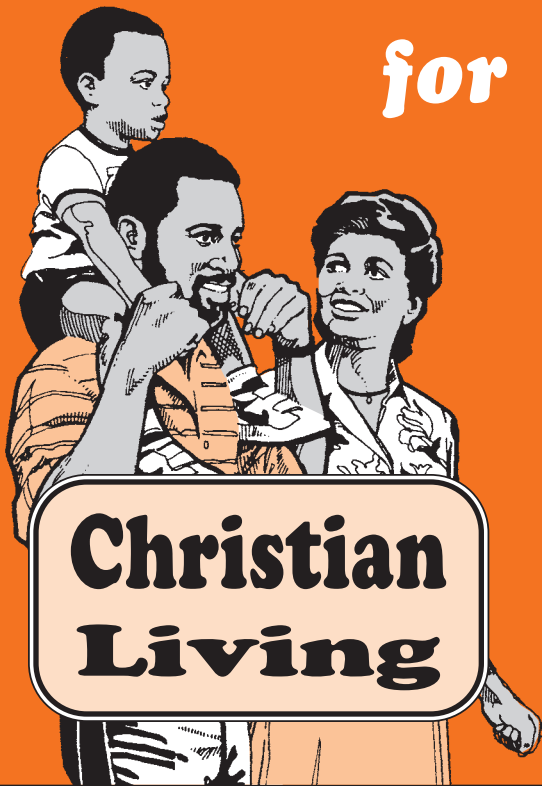


Essentials *for*



**Christian
Living**

What You Should Know

If you have received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you can be certain of these things:

✓ *You are a child of God.* “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name” (Jn 1:12).

✓ *You are forgiven and justified.* “He has ... forgiven you all trespasses” (Col. 2:13); “Justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 3:24).

✓ *You have new life from God.* “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Cor. 5:17).

✓ *You are saved for eternity.* “He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life” (Jn. 5:24).

✓ *The Holy Spirit lives in you.* “Having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance” (Eph. 1:13-14).

✓ *You have peace with God.* “Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:1).

These things establish your eternal position before God. However, at any time, your present spiritual condition depends on your practical obedience to His Word.

What You Should Do

Below are several things you can do to please God and grow spiritually.

✓ *Openly confess Christ before men.* “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom. 10:9).

✓ *Be baptized.* “Make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Mt. 28:19). The new believer should respond as the Ethiopian did after hearing the gospel: “What hinders me from being baptized?” (Acts 8:36).

✓ *Surrender your life to God.* “Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My

people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you” (Jer. 7:23). Make this commitment: By the grace of God, I will do anything and go anywhere the Lord desires.

✓ *Read the Bible daily.* You need it for—

• *Growth:* “As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby” (1 Pet. 2:2).

• *Protection:* “Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You” (Ps. 119:11).

• *Guidance:* “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Ps. 119:105).

✓ *Pray, praise and worship.* Hold no secrets from God—tell Him everything. As a redeemed child you should not be afraid to ask for anything according to His will (1 Jn. 5:14-15). However, your requests should be coupled with praise and thanksgiving: “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God” (Phil. 4:6).

✓ *Gather with other Christians.* Do not neglect this privilege. It is the only way you can

honor the Lord's final request: "Do this in remembrance of me" (Lk. 22:19). You should meet with other Christians regularly and scripturally because Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them" (Mt. 18:20).

✓ ***Give to the Lord.*** You can never repay God. Nevertheless, He appreciates your gifts of time, talents and resources. There is blessing in giving: "He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:6-7).

✓ ***Witness to others.*** Spread the good news of salvation by your walk, by your words, through public preaching, through the distribution of literature, etc. "You shall be witnesses to Me" (Acts 1:8).

✓ ***Do good works.*** Realizing that you are not saved by works (Eph. 2:8-9), do something (as the Spirit directs) for the One who has done so much for you. God had more in mind for you than merely saving you from hell: "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10).

✓ ***Confess sins immediately.*** Scripture gives a wonderful guarantee: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn. 1:9). It also gives a warning: "He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy" (Pr. 28:13).

✓ ***Look for the Lord's coming.*** Your Christian life will be more successful if you live as though the Lord were coming at any moment: "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming" (Mt. 24:42). You will be more joyful if you anticipate His coming as "the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (Ti. 2:13).

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