

Your New Life!

About this lesson:

Faith in Jesus Christ is not mere words; it is a totally new and different kind of life. The tremendous power of God and the blessings that come with the Gospel of Christ are yours, not just when you first believed, but as you continue to LIVE the life God has given you.

Today you will learn about:

- **Your new life in Christ.**
- **The steps you need to take to make it a reality in your life.**

Do as follows:

- ✓ Read the text and underline important passages.
 - ✓ Find the Scripture verses in your Bible.
 - ✓ Mark them.
- The more you study,
the more you will understand.
God bless you!



2 Cor 5:17

Col 1:13

Five pillars for your New Life

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" Hallelujah! This is true indeed. When you received Christ, God moved you from the Kingdom of Darkness to the Kingdom of Jesus.

Even if you don't feel it, you are now in a new kingdom. Imagine a person who changes citizenship from one country to another; he may not feel any different until he starts to enjoy the benefits of his new citizenship. Only then will his change of identity be evident. The same is true for you! In this lesson you will begin to learn how to live in this new kingdom. Let's look at five important truths: baptism, fellowship, Bible study, prayer and worship, and sharing your faith.



Acts 2:14-41

1 Baptism

When Peter preached his first message on the day of Pentecost, people were deeply convicted and wanted to change. The



1 Baptism (continued)

Acts 2:37,38

message had called for repentance and faith, and the people asked: "What shall we do?" Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" This clearly shows the steps they took to become citizens in the kingdom of God. First, they took a step of repentance – they turned from their sins and turned to God. Second, they were baptised – immersed in water.

Acts 2:38,41

Acts 8:38

What is baptism?

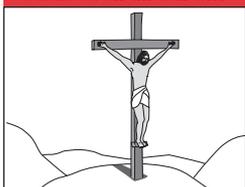
Matt 28:19

The command to baptise comes directly from Jesus himself: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Through baptism you identify with Christ's death and resurrection – you die to the old life and are resurrected to abundant, new life in Jesus! Paul teaches: "...all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death. We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

Rom 6:3,4

Baptism reflects three things that happened to Jesus

Jesus took all our sin



2 Cor 5:21

1 Jesus took all of our sin and punishment on himself. He was condemned to death for us. "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

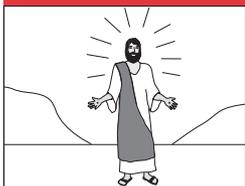
He died and was buried



Rom 6:7

2 When Jesus died and was buried, he broke the grip and power of sin, "because anyone who has died has been freed from sin." Jesus was now ready for resurrection!

He rose to a new life



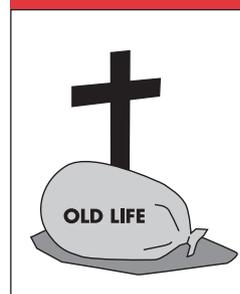
Rom 8:11

Heb 7:25

3 On the third day, Jesus was resurrected! He was made alive by the Spirit. Now he is seated in heaven at his Father's right hand and lives to intercede for those who come to God through him.

Your baptism reflects these three stages

Your old life under sin



Eph 4:22-32

1 Thess 1:9

Luke 9:23-25

1 The cross

The cross symbolises death to your old life in the Kingdom of Darkness. This means:

- You leave your old lifestyle of selfishness.
- You leave your old "gods" – things that have ruled over you.
- You choose to follow Christ for the rest of your life. You shut the door to the old life behind you and step into the new!

The old life dies in baptism



Rom 6:6

1 Peter 2:24

Rom 6:7

2 The grave

You go down under the water, and your old life is buried. It's as dead as a body in a grave! The power of sin is destroyed, the slavery to sin is broken, "so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness." Anyone who has died has been freed from sin. This death is your freedom!

New life in joy and victory



2 Cor 5:17

Col 2:12

John 11:25,26

Eph 1:19,20

3 The Resurrection

You come up out of the water to a new life. Baptism expresses the miracle that happened when you were saved. You are a new creation.

You are raised with Christ and made alive with him because you believed. You have passed from death to life. His supernatural resurrection power is yours!

Jesus wants you to be baptised

Mark 16:16

Acts 2:41

Rom 10:9,10

Eph 2:8,9

Jesus says: "Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." This means that every believer should be baptised in obedience to Jesus. Baptism alone does not save you; you are saved only as you believe and confess that Jesus is Lord. Baptism is an outward confession of your new life in Christ. So, if you have not yet been baptised in water, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, this is a necessary step for you to take. Do it and you will be wonderfully blessed!



Acts 2:41,42

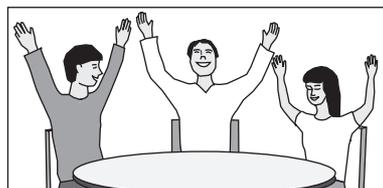
2 Church: fellowship with other believers

The lifestyle of the first believers was radically changed: "Those who accepted Peter's message were baptised, and... they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." A believer is never alone; he can always have close fellowship with God. But there is more: all believers are united, linked together as close as parts in a body. There are no walls between us, because we have a new focus, Jesus. We love each other, because Jesus first loved us.

Matt 28:20

1 Cor 12:12,13

1 John 4:19



To the first believers, this love was real and practical. They met together daily, often in homes. They shared their possessions, so there were no needy persons among them. There was great

Acts 2:44-47

Acts 4:32-35

joy, as they gathered to pray, to praise God, and to break bread together. And the people around them liked them.

Look what happened as they lived their lives in close fellowship, centred on Jesus: people were saved daily!

This is what you need, too: close fellowship with others who believe. Ask God to put you together with others who praise him with joy, and where God's power is present to save, heal and deliver. If you can, open your home to fellow believers. Begin to express the love of God, and others will be attracted to him.



Acts 2:42

3 The Bible: your daily food

The first believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, which is found in the Bible. They gathered together to listen and learn, and they shared with others what they had received.

The Word of God is like food. A baby needs food very often. So do you! "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation." A believer grows in strength and faith, as he receives God's Word and lives by it.



Let nothing hinder you from taking time every day with the Bible. Read and study God's Word. Underline and memorize particular verses and passages that speak specifically to you. If you spend much time with God, you will grow in his likeness. Share with others what you learn, and you will be a blessing to them!



Acts 2:42

Acts 2:47

4 Prayer and worship

The first believers devoted themselves to prayer. And they praised God together. This is part of the believer's new lifestyle.

Prayer is a way to have fellowship with the Lord. You can pray about things that are on your heart, speaking to God as you would speak to another person. You can also pray in tongues, which is your spirit talking to God in words you don't understand. More about this in a later lesson.

1 Cor 14:2,15

The first believers prayed together, and left us an example to follow. Jesus himself gave a special promise about the prayer of agreement: "If two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there I am with them." Prayer in agreement with others is powerful!

Matt 18:19,20

Prayer changes circumstances

When believers in Jesus truly pray in unity, their prayers will change circumstances. It will be the same for you!

Acts 12:5

When Peter was in prison, the church earnestly prayed to God for him. He was in an impossible situation, sleeping between soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. Yet God delivered Peter miraculously in answer to prayer. You, too, can see God's power released to change impossible situations, as you pray.

Acts 4:24-31

In another instance, when the authorities threatened the first believers and tried to stop them from preaching, "they raised their voices together in prayer to God... After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." God gave them what they needed – boldness!

Our God is great and wonderful, and worthy of our praise and adoration! Take time to gather together with others to praise and worship him. Sing joyful praises to your God, and proclaim that he is good, and wonderful, and just! Whenever you praise God, something happens in the unseen world: God's presence comes. Where there is praise and worship to God, the Lord is given his rightful place, and he comes to rule and to show his power! "You are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of [God's people]."

Ps 22:3



5 Telling others about Jesus

Acts 2:41,47
Acts 5:12-16
Acts 4:32,33

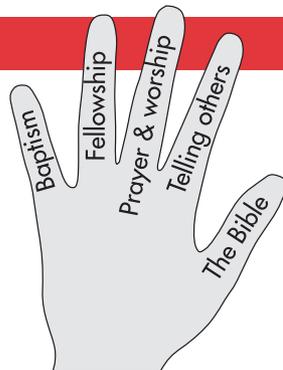
The lifestyle of the first believers achieved wonderful results. They joyfully gathered in homes to praise God, and people were saved daily! They lived in love and unity, and preached with great power. God performed miracles, and "more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number." Can you see the wonderful outcome of living close to God and to one another? In this atmosphere, it was easy to say to a neighbour: "Come to my home and meet my friends." He (or she) met not only the friends but Jesus, too. This can be your lifestyle! When you share what you have received from God, you will have the immense joy of seeing others being brought from death to eternal life. The more you share, the stronger you will grow in the Lord.

Congratulations!

You have studied your last lesson in "The Gate to Life" series and you have done well. What you have learned will affect the rest of your life! Every once in a while, take an hour and go through this foundational series again.

Bible Quest

Just as the hand has five fingers, you have now learned about five key areas that you need to act on and to make a part of your life. The first, baptism, you only take once, but the others are for your daily life as a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.



Exercise 1: Baptism

a) Study these Bible passages on baptism, then answer the questions:

- Matt 28:18-20. Who gave the instruction to baptise?
Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, 18:8. What is required before a person is baptised?

- Acts 8:36-38. Describe the procedure for baptism
Acts 16:14,15,30-34. How did the families respond to the message of salvation?
Acts 16:34. What emotion did faith and baptism inspire?

b) Read Romans 6:1-14 and write a brief summary in your notebook.

Exercise 2: Your daily life as a believer

When you were saved, you became a new person. "The old has gone, the new has come!" Now you live in vital union with God himself. Look at Acts chapters 2 to 4 and write down 8-10 things that were part of the believers' life in the early church.

2 Cor 5:17



Action Time

Faith without deeds is dead. Here is a simple 5-point program to help you put the contents of this lesson into practise:

- 1. Fellowship. Find a church or fellowship of believers, where the Bible is taught and people love Jesus wholeheartedly. Faithfully join together with other believers.
2. Baptism. If you have turned from your sins and believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, there is nothing to stop you being baptised. Ask the church leaders - or a fellow believer - to baptise you.

Act 8:36,37



Action Time *(continued)*

3. The Bible. Begin and end your day with Bible reading. Start with Matthew, then Acts. Then just keep reading. For the Old Testament, begin with Genesis and Psalms. Note down what God speaks to you. Expect him to speak to you every day!

1 Thess 5:17

4. Prayer and worship. "Pray continually." Pray about everything, on your own and with your family members. Start and finish your day with prayer. Pray with other believers as often as possible. God hears your prayers and will answer you!

5. Tell others about Jesus. Share the Good News of God's love and power. Begin with your family and friends. Start today!

Your exciting new life in Jesus Christ has begun. Hallelujah!

Memo Time

Memorize and Speak God's Word

Here is a Bible verse to memorize. Read it aloud many times! Choose two other Bible verses from this lesson and memorize them.

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Cor 5:17

BibleKeys is:

- ✗ a series of lessons with basic teaching from the Word of God.
- ✗ self-instructive, but can also be used in groups.

The foundation is the Bible, God's eternal Word. This powerful book holds the keys to righteousness and happiness for everyone, impacting both this life and life after death.

This lesson is the last in "The Gate to Life" Introductory Series.

For further information, please contact:

BibleKeys, P.O. Box 3178, New Delhi 110 003
E-mail: BibleKeys@post.com