



HopeCathedral

I CHOOSE JESUS

A New Believer's Guide to
Faith and Growth


Contents

Introduction: Welcome to Your New Life in Christ	3
Part 1. Foundations of the Faith (Days 1-5)	5
Part 2. Spiritual Practices for Growth (Days 6-10)	21
Part 3. Becoming More Like Jesus (Days 11-15)	37
Part 4. Going Deeper – Next Steps (Days 16-21)	53
The 7 Steps to Spiritual Growth: Your Next Steps in Faith	74
How to Use the 7 Steps to Spiritual Growth	82

Introduction: Welcome to Your New Life in Christ

“My Father, thank You for loving me. I know without Jesus I’m lost. I believe Jesus died for me and every wrong I’ve done is forgiven. I believe Jesus is alive and I make Him the leader of my life. Father, fill me with Your power and show me my God-given purpose. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”

Welcome! You’ve just made the best decision of your life—choosing to follow Jesus! This is



a brand-new beginning, a fresh start, and the start of a journey that will change your life forever. Jesus Himself said, “My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life” (John 10:10 NLT). You’re stepping into that life right now—one filled with purpose, love, and hope.

This devotional is here to help you take those first steps in your new faith. Over the next 21 days, we’ll walk together through what it means to follow Jesus. We’ll explore some key truths from the Bible and discover practical ways to grow in your relationship with God.

But this is just the beginning! At the end of this devotional, I’ll introduce you to **seven important steps** that will help you keep moving forward in your faith. These steps will show you how to connect with God, grow personally, build meaningful relationships, and live out your faith in a powerful way.

Whether you’re completely new to Christianity or reconnecting with your faith, you’re in the right place. This devotional will give you the tools and encouragement you need to confidently walk in your new life with Jesus.

Let’s get started!

part 01

**Foundations
of the Faith
(Days 1-5)**

01 *day*

Salvation – What Just Happened?

When you accepted Jesus as your Savior, something incredible happened—your life changed forever. You are now a part of God’s family! Salvation is not just a decision; it’s a miracle. By choosing Jesus, you were rescued from a life separated from God and brought into His eternal kingdom. This is the most important moment of your life because it means you are now forgiven of your sins and have the promise of eternal life with God.

God's love for you is deep and sacrificial, as we see in Jesus' words to Nicodemus, a religious leader who came to Him with questions. Jesus explained, *"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16 NLT). This means that God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sins so that we can live forever with Him.

Now that you've made the decision to follow Jesus, you are free from the power of sin. This doesn't mean you'll never make mistakes, but it does mean that God has given you the strength to overcome them. The Bible says you are a "new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17), meaning that your old life is gone, and a new life has begun.

As you start this journey, take time to reflect on this amazing gift of salvation. You are no longer separated from God—you are part of His family, and nothing can ever take that away. God's love for you is eternal, and He will guide you every step of the way as you grow in your faith.



Reflection:

Write down what excites you about your new faith. How do you feel now that you've accepted Jesus? How do you want to grow in your relationship with God?

**Prayer Focus:**

Thank God for saving you and giving you new life. You can use this prayer or speak to God in your own words:


**Prayer:**

“Father God, thank You for the incredible gift of salvation. I praise You for loving me so much that You sent Your only Son to die for my sins. Today, I accept Your love and grace with an open heart. Help me to walk in this new life and to grow closer to You every day. I trust You with my life, and I ask You to guide me on this journey of faith. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

02 day

Saved from What?

Salvation isn't just a fresh start—it's a rescue mission. Before we accepted Jesus, we were trapped in sin and separated from God. Sin is anything that goes against God's will and His perfect design for our lives. It causes brokenness in our relationship with God and others, and its ultimate consequence is death. Paul described it this way: *"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 6:23 NLT).



Without Jesus, the payment for sin is spiritual death—eternal separation from God. But God, in His great love and mercy, didn't leave us without hope. He sent His Son to take the punishment for our sins and offer us the gift of eternal life. This is the miracle of grace: we didn't earn it, but God gave it freely through Jesus.

Not only has Jesus saved you from eternal separation, but He has also set you free from the power of sin in your daily life. Through Jesus, you now have the ability to overcome sin and live in the freedom He provides. While temptation and struggles will still come, you are no longer enslaved by sin—you belong to Jesus.

As you reflect on what Jesus has saved you from, take a moment to celebrate God's amazing grace. His love is so great that He has given you the gift of eternal life, not because of what you've done, but because of who He is.



Reflection:

Reflect on the idea of grace. How does it feel to know that you've been rescued from sin and its consequences?



Prayer Focus:

Thank God for His grace and the gift of eternal life. You can pray the words below or express your gratitude in your own way:



Prayer:

“Lord, I am so grateful for Your grace. Thank You for saving me from the consequences of sin and for giving me eternal life. Help me to live in the freedom You have given me. Strengthen me to resist temptation and to live a life that honors You. I praise You for Your mercy and love. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

03 day

Who is God?

As you grow in your faith, one of the most important things you will discover is who God is. The Bible teaches us that God is three in one: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is called the Trinity, and while it's a mystery, it's foundational to our faith. Understanding who God is will shape how you follow Him and experience His work in your life.

Before leaving the earth, Jesus gave His disciples a command, and in it, He revealed the fullness of God: *“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit”* (Matthew 28:19 NLT). In this statement,

we see that God is Father, Son, and Spirit—three distinct persons, but one God.

God the Father is the Creator of all things. He loves you deeply and has a perfect plan for your life. Jesus, the Son, is God in human form. He came to earth to show us who God is and to die for our sins so we could be reconciled to the Father. The Holy Spirit is God's presence with us today. He lives within every believer, guiding us and empowering us to live out our faith.

As you follow Jesus, you are in relationship with all three persons of the Trinity. God the Father loves you, Jesus the Son saved you, and the Holy Spirit is with you every day, helping you grow. Embrace this truth and ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand God more deeply as you walk in faith.



Reflection:

Take a moment to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand God as Father, Son, and Spirit. How does this knowledge shape the way you view your relationship with God?



Prayer Focus:

Thank God for revealing Himself to you. Use this prayer or express your heart to God in your own way:



Prayer:

“Father, thank You for being my Creator and my loving Father. Jesus, thank You for saving me and showing me how to live. Holy Spirit, thank You for living in me and guiding me every day. Help me to grow in my understanding of who You are and to trust You in every part of my life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”



The Importance of Baptism

Baptism is a beautiful and powerful way to publicly declare your new life in Christ. It's a symbol of what has already happened in your heart. When you are baptized, it represents the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Going under the water symbolizes being buried with Christ, and coming up out of the water symbolizes being raised to new life in Him.

When Jesus came to John the Baptist, even John was hesitant to baptize Him. But Jesus insisted, saying, *"It should be done, for we*

must carry out all that God requires.” So John agreed, and the Bible tells us that “Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John” (Matthew 3:13-15 NLT).

If baptism was important to Jesus, it should be important to us as well. Baptism doesn't save you—only faith in Jesus can do that. But it's an act of obedience and a public declaration that you now belong to Jesus. It's a powerful symbol of your new identity in Christ and the transformation He has made in your life.

If you haven't been baptized yet, consider taking this important next step. Baptism is a way to proclaim to the world that your life has been forever changed by Jesus.



Next Step:

If you haven't been baptized, consider talking to your pastor about scheduling it. Reflect on the significance of baptism and how it represents your new life in Christ.



Prayer Focus:

Ask God to guide you as you take this important step. Use this prayer or speak to God from your heart:



Prayer:

“Father, thank You for the gift of baptism and for the new life I have in Jesus. Help me to follow You in obedience and to boldly declare my faith. I trust You to lead me as I take this next step in my journey with You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

05 day

Renewing Your Mind

Becoming a follower of Jesus is not only about having a new heart—it’s also about developing a new way of thinking. As a believer, God wants to transform the way you think, helping you align your thoughts with His truth. This process is called “renewing your mind,” and it happens as you allow God’s Word to shape your thoughts, attitudes, and actions.

Paul explained this process of transformation, saying, *“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.”*

Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect" (Romans 12:2 NLT).

The world around us promotes values that often go against God's ways. But as a follower of Jesus, you are called to think differently. Instead of following the patterns of the world, you are invited to let God change your thinking. This transformation happens over time as you spend time reading the Bible, praying, and seeking God's will for your life.

As God renews your mind, you will begin to understand His good and perfect will for you. This renewed way of thinking will help you live a life that pleases God and reflects His love to others.



Reflection:

Identify areas of your life where you want to think differently. Ask God to renew your mind and help you see things from His perspective.



Prayer Focus:

Ask God to transform your mind. Use the prayer below or express your own thoughts to God:



Prayer:

“Lord, I want to be transformed by Your Word. Please renew my mind and help me think in ways that honor You. Show me where I need to change my thinking, and help me align my thoughts with Your truth. Thank You for the new life I have in You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

part 02


**Spiritual Practices
for Growth
(Days 6-10)**

06 day

Hearing God's Voice

One of the most amazing truths about following Jesus is that God desires to speak to you. He wants to lead and guide you in every part of your life. Learning how to hear His voice is an important part of growing in your relationship with Him. But how does God speak to us?

Jesus said, *“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me”* (John 10:27 NLT). Just as a shepherd leads and protects his sheep, Jesus, our Good Shepherd, speaks to us and leads us. We hear God’s voice through the



Bible, through prayer, and by the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

God primarily speaks through His Word. The Bible is living and active (Hebrews 4:12) and contains everything we need to know about His will and character. When you read and meditate on the Bible, God will bring verses and truths to your heart to guide you.

God also speaks through prayer. Prayer is not just talking to God; it's also listening. Take time in your prayer life to be quiet before God and ask Him to speak to you. He may give you peace, direction, or clarity through your time with Him. Lastly, the Holy Spirit, who lives within you, speaks through nudges, promptings, and thoughts that align with God's Word. The more you practice listening, the more familiar you will become with God's voice.



Reflection:

Spend time today asking God to help you hear His voice clearly. What areas of your life are you seeking direction for?



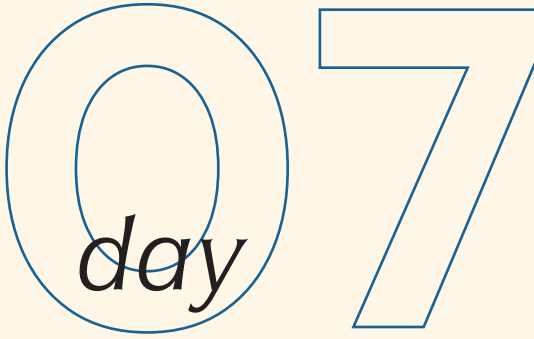
Prayer Focus:

Ask God to help you hear His voice more clearly each day. You can use this prayer or speak from your heart:



Prayer:

“Lord, I know that You want to speak to me, and I want to hear Your voice more clearly. Help me to recognize when You are speaking through Your Word, through prayer, and through the Holy Spirit. Guide me in the decisions I face today, and help me follow Your leading. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”



The Power of Prayer

Prayer is one of the most powerful ways to grow closer to God. It's not just about presenting requests to God, but also about building a relationship with Him. Through prayer, we come to know God's heart, and He shapes us into people who reflect His love and character.

When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, He gave them a model to follow. He said, *"Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done on earth, as it is in*

heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one" (Matthew 6:9-13 NLT).

This prayer, known as the Lord's Prayer, is more than just words to recite. It's a model for how to approach God in prayer—acknowledging His greatness, asking for His will to be done, relying on Him for daily needs, seeking forgiveness, and asking for strength to overcome temptation.

As you grow in your faith, make time each day for prayer. Even if you start with just a few minutes, God will meet you in that time. Prayer connects you with His heart and invites Him to move in your life.



Action:

Begin a daily prayer routine, even if it's just a few minutes each day. You might start by praying the Lord's Prayer, then adding your own words.



Prayer Focus:

Ask God to deepen your prayer life. Here's a prayer you can use, or feel free to speak from your own heart:



Prayer:

“Father, thank You for the gift of prayer. Help me to grow in my prayer life and to know You more deeply as I spend time with You. Teach me how to pray according to Your will, and let my life be shaped by Your heart. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”



Reading the Bible

The Bible is God’s Word to us, and it’s one of the most powerful ways we learn about Him and His plans for our lives. Through Scripture, God reveals His character, His will, and His promises. The Bible is more than just a book—it’s living, active, and able to transform our hearts and minds.

Paul wrote to Timothy, “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to

prepare and equip his people to do every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT).

God’s Word is meant to be a guide for how we live our lives. It teaches us about who God is, shows us how to live in a way that pleases Him, and helps us grow in wisdom and understanding. The Bible is also a source of comfort and strength when we face difficult times.

As you make Bible reading a regular part of your life, start with the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). These books focus on the life and teachings of Jesus and are a great place to begin learning more about Him.



Action:

Start by reading a chapter from the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John). Take time to reflect on what stands out to you and how it applies to your life.



Prayer Focus:

Ask God to give you a hunger for His Word and to help you understand it. Here's a prayer to guide you:



Prayer:

“Lord, thank You for the Bible and for the truth it contains. Help me to make reading Your Word a regular part of my life. Open my heart and mind to understand what You are saying, and help me apply it to my life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”



The Holy Spirit – Our Guide

When Jesus left this earth, He didn't leave us alone. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to be with us, to guide and empower us in our walk with God. The Holy Spirit is God's presence living in us, helping us grow in faith and understand His will.

Jesus told His disciples, *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot*

receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you" (John 14:16-17 NLT).

The Holy Spirit is called the Advocate, which means He is our helper and counselor. He speaks truth to our hearts, guiding us in decisions and helping us live in a way that pleases God. When you face challenges or need direction, the Holy Spirit is there to lead you. As you grow in your faith, you'll learn to recognize His voice and follow His promptings.

Take time today to invite the Holy Spirit into every part of your life. Ask Him to guide your thoughts, decisions, and actions.



Reflection:

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in your everyday decisions. How can you be more open to His leading in your life?



Prayer Focus:

Invite the Holy Spirit to guide and empower you. You can use the prayer below or speak from your own heart:



Prayer:


“Holy Spirit, thank You for living in me and for being my guide. I invite You into every part of my life. Help me to hear Your voice and follow Your leading. Give me wisdom in my decisions and strength to live according to Your will. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

10 day

Life in the Spirit

Living a Spirit-led life means allowing the Holy Spirit to guide and empower everything you do. It's about walking in step with Him daily, letting Him transform your character and actions to reflect Jesus. One of the ways the Holy Spirit works in us is by producing the fruit of the Spirit—qualities that reflect God's nature.

Paul describes this fruit in his letter to the Galatians, saying, *“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!”* (Galatians 5:22-23 NLT).



The fruit of the Spirit is evidence of God's work in our lives. As we grow in our relationship with Him, these qualities—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—become more evident in how we live. These are not things we can produce on our own; they are the result of the Holy Spirit working within us.

Today, take time to reflect on how the Holy Spirit is working in your life. Ask Him to fill you with His fruit and to help you live in a way that reflects the character of Jesus.



Reflection:

Which fruit of the Spirit do you want to see more of in your life? Ask God to help you grow in that area.



Prayer Focus:

Ask God to fill your life with the fruit of the Spirit. Use the prayer below or speak from your own heart:



Prayer:

“Holy Spirit, I invite You to fill my life with Your fruit. Help me to reflect Your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control in everything I do. Change me from the inside out, and help me live in a way that honors You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

part 03


**Becoming More
Like Jesus
(Days 11-15)**

day 11

Walking in Faith

Faith is not just something you believe in your heart; it's something you live out every day. Walking in faith means trusting God in every area of your life, even when you don't have all the answers. It's believing that God is faithful and will guide you through whatever challenges you face. Faith is about putting your confidence in God and relying on Him, even when things seem uncertain.

The Bible gives us a clear definition of faith: *“Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see”* (Hebrews 11:1 NLT). Faith is trusting in what we cannot yet see but are sure of because



of God's promises. It's knowing that God is working even when we don't see the outcome yet. Walking in faith means choosing to believe that God is in control, even in the middle of life's challenges.

As you walk with God, there will be times when your faith is tested. You may face situations where you have to trust Him with your health, your finances, your relationships, or your future. In those moments, walking in faith means choosing to lean on God's promises and trusting that He is working all things for your good (Romans 8:28).



Reflection:

What area of your life requires the most faith right now? Ask God to strengthen your faith in that area.

**Prayer Focus:**

Ask God to strengthen your faith and help you walk in trust. You can use this prayer or express your own heart:

**Prayer:**

“Lord, thank You for being faithful in every season of my life. Help me to walk in faith and trust You in every area, even when I can’t see the full picture. Strengthen my faith where it’s weak, and help me believe that You are always working for my good. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

12 day

Loving Like Jesus

One of the most powerful ways we reflect Jesus to the world is through love. Jesus calls us to love others just as He loves us. This kind of love is unconditional, sacrificial, and full of grace. It's not based on what someone deserves but on how God has loved us. Loving like Jesus means choosing to put others before ourselves and showing kindness, even when it's difficult.

Jesus gave His disciples a new commandment, saying, *"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have*

loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples” (John 13:34-35 NLT). This kind of love is what sets followers of Jesus apart. It’s how the world will recognize that we belong to Him.

Loving like Jesus isn’t just about words—it’s about action. It means serving others, forgiving those who hurt us, and extending grace to people who need it most. When we love others the way Jesus loves us, we reflect His heart to the world around us.



Action:

Show love to someone today by doing something kind for them. Whether it's a simple act of kindness or reaching out to someone in need, let your actions reflect the love of Jesus.



Prayer Focus:

Ask God to help you love others like Jesus loves you. Here's a prayer you can use, or feel free to pray in your own way:




Prayer:

“Jesus, thank You for loving me unconditionally. Help me to love others the way You love me—with grace, patience, and kindness. Show me how I can reflect Your love to the people around me today. In Your name, Amen.”

13 *day*

Serving and Sharing the Gospel

As followers of Jesus, we are called not only to love but also to serve others and share the message of the gospel. Serving isn't just an obligation—it's an opportunity to reflect the heart of Jesus. When we serve, we show the world what it means to be a follower of Christ. And as we serve, we are also called to share the good news of Jesus with others, inviting them to experience His love and salvation.



Before ascending to heaven, Jesus gave His disciples a powerful mission: *“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age”* (Matthew 28:19-20 NLT).

This mission, known as the Great Commission, is not just for the disciples—it’s for all of us. We are called to share the good news of Jesus with those around us, whether through our words or through our actions. You don’t need to be a preacher to share the gospel. You can share your testimony—your personal story of how Jesus changed your life—and invite others to experience His love.



Next Step:

Find a way to serve in your church or community. Whether it's volunteering in a ministry or reaching out to someone in need, look for opportunities to serve and share the love of Jesus.



Prayer Focus:

Ask God to show you how to serve and share the gospel. You can use this prayer or speak from your heart:



Prayer:

“Lord, thank You for calling me to serve others and share Your love. Show me how I can make a difference in the lives of those around me. Give me the courage to share my testimony and the good news of what You’ve done for me. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

14
day

Forgiving as Christ Forgave

Forgiveness is at the heart of the Christian life. Jesus forgave us completely and unconditionally when He died on the cross for our sins, and He calls us to extend that same forgiveness to others. But forgiveness isn't always easy. It requires humility and a willingness to let go of hurt and bitterness. However, when we choose to forgive, we are set free and can experience God's peace.

Paul reminded the Colossian believers of the importance of forgiveness, saying, *"Make allowance for each other's faults, and*

forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others” (Colossians 3:13 NLT). Forgiveness isn’t something we do because someone deserves it—it’s something we do because Jesus forgave us first.

When we forgive others, we reflect the grace of God in our lives. It doesn’t mean that what they did was okay, but it does mean that we are releasing them from the debt of their wrongdoing and trusting God to heal and restore. Forgiving as Christ forgave brings freedom, not only to the one who forgives but also to the one who is forgiven.



Reflection:

Is there someone you need to forgive? Ask God for the strength to forgive them and release any bitterness you may be holding onto.

**Prayer Focus:**

Ask God to help you forgive others as Christ has forgiven you. Here's a prayer to guide you, or feel free to pray in your own words:

**Prayer:**

“Lord, thank You for forgiving me and showing me Your grace. I ask for Your strength to forgive those who have hurt me. Help me to let go of bitterness and choose forgiveness, just as You forgave me. I trust You to heal my heart and bring peace to my relationships. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

15 day

Worship – A Lifestyle of Praise

Worship is more than just singing songs on Sunday—it’s a lifestyle of honoring God in everything we do. True worship is about giving God our whole hearts, living in a way that brings glory to Him every day. When we live a life of worship, we are constantly aware of God’s presence and His worthiness of our praise.

Paul encourages believers to live this way, saying, *“And so, dear brothers and sisters,*

I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him” (Romans 12:1 NLT). Worship is more than a song; it’s a life that is fully surrendered to God.

Every time you choose to honor God with your thoughts, words, and actions, you are worshiping Him. Worship happens when you praise God for who He is, thank Him for what He’s done, and trust Him with your life. As you grow in your faith, make worship a part of your everyday life.



Action:

Take time today to praise God for who He is and what He's done in your life. Whether through prayer, singing, or simply reflecting on His goodness, give God your wholehearted worship.



Prayer Focus:

Ask God to help you live a life of worship that honors Him. Here's a prayer to guide you:



Prayer:

“Father, You are worthy of all my praise. Help me to live a life of worship that honors You in everything I do. Thank You for who You are and for all You’ve done in my life. I give You my heart, my thoughts, and my actions as an offering of worship. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

04 *part*

**Going Deeper –
Next Steps
(Days 16-21)**

16 day

The Power of Community

You weren't meant to do this journey of faith alone. God designed us to grow in community, where we can encourage and strengthen one another. Being part of a church family is an essential part of your spiritual growth. In community, we can share life's joys and challenges, support one another, and keep each other accountable in our walk with Jesus.

The writer of Hebrews urges believers, *"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not*

neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near” (Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT). Gathering together regularly helps us stay focused on our faith and encourages us to live out God’s love.

As you move forward in your relationship with Jesus, it’s important to find a local church where you can connect with other believers. Joining a small group or ministry team will help you build meaningful relationships, grow in your faith, and discover how you can serve others.



Next Step:

Join a small group or ministry team at your church. Take a step toward deeper community and relationship-building.

**Prayer Focus:**

Ask God to help you find your place in the community of believers. Here's a prayer to guide you, or feel free to use your own words:

**Prayer:**

“Lord, thank You for creating me to be in community with others. Help me to find my place in the church and to build relationships that will encourage my walk with You. Lead me to the right small group or ministry team where I can grow and serve others. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

17 day

Generosity and Giving

Jesus modeled a life of generosity, giving everything He had—even His life—for us. As followers of Jesus, we are called to reflect His heart by living generously. Generosity isn't just about giving money; it's about giving our time, talents, and resources to bless others and reflect God's love.

Paul encourages us in his letter to the Corinthians, *“Remember this: A farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in*

your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. 'For God loves a person who gives cheerfully'" (2 Corinthians 9:6-7 NLT). God is pleased when we give out of a heart of love, not out of obligation.

Generosity isn't just about meeting physical needs—it's a spiritual practice that deepens our relationship with God. As we give, we learn to trust God to provide for us and experience the joy that comes from reflecting His heart. Consider how you can live generously today, whether it's by giving your time, your talents, or your resources to serve others.

**Next Step:**

Consider ways you can be generous with your time, talents, and resources. Ask God how He wants you to give.

**Prayer Focus:**

Ask God to help you live generously and reflect His heart of giving. Use this prayer or speak from your heart:

**Prayer:**


“Father, thank You for Your incredible generosity toward me. Help me to reflect Your heart by living generously with my time, talents, and resources. Show me how I can give to bless others and build Your kingdom. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

18 day

Standing Firm in Faith

As you grow in your faith, you'll face challenges and trials that will test your trust in God. Standing firm in faith means choosing to rely on God's strength, even when life gets tough. It's about holding onto His promises and refusing to give up, knowing that God is with you every step of the way.

Paul encourages believers to stand firm, saying, *"A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil"* (Ephesians 6:10-11)



NLT). God gives us the strength and the tools we need to stand firm, even in difficult times. His Word, His Spirit, and His people provide the support we need to remain steady in our faith.

When you face challenges, remember that God is your strength. He is faithful, and He will carry you through whatever you are facing. Standing firm in faith is about trusting God to hold you up when you feel weak and trusting His promises when circumstances look uncertain.



Reflection:

Write down the challenges you're facing right now. Ask God for the strength to stand firm in your faith through them.

**Prayer Focus:**

Ask God to strengthen your faith and help you stand firm. Use this prayer or speak to God in your own words:

**Prayer:**


“Lord, I know that I will face challenges in my walk with You, but I trust that You will give me the strength to stand firm. Help me to put on Your armor and rely on Your mighty power when I feel weak. Strengthen my faith and help me to trust You, no matter what I’m facing. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

19 day

Living Out Your Purpose

God has a specific purpose and plan for your life, and He wants you to live it out fully. Your purpose is more than just what you do—it's about who you are in Christ and how you reflect His love and truth to the world. As you grow in your faith, God will reveal His purpose for you and guide you in walking it out.

In the book of Jeremiah, God makes a beautiful promise: *“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope”* (Jeremiah 29:11 NLT). God's plans for your life



are good, filled with hope and purpose. He created you with unique gifts and abilities, and He wants to use you to make a difference in the world.

Living out your purpose begins with seeking God's will and being open to His leading. It's about using the gifts He has given you to serve others and to reflect His love and truth in all that you do.



Next Step:

Ask God to show you His purpose for your life. Be open to His leading as you walk in faith and discover how He wants to use you.

**Prayer Focus:**

Ask God to reveal His purpose for your life and to help you walk in it. You can pray the words below or speak from your heart:

**Prayer:**

“Father, thank You for having a purpose and plan for my life. I trust that Your plans for me are good, and I ask that You reveal Your purpose to me as I seek You. Help me to walk in Your will and use the gifts You’ve given me to make a difference in the world. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

20 day

Telling Your Story

Your personal testimony—the story of how Jesus changed your life—is a powerful way to share the gospel with others. People can argue with theology or doctrine, but they can't argue with your personal experience. When you share your story, you give others a glimpse of God's grace and invite them to experience His love for themselves.

The book of Revelation reminds us of the power of our testimony: *“And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony. And they did not love*

their lives so much that they were afraid to die” (Revelation 12:11 NLT). Your testimony, combined with the power of what Jesus did on the cross, is a weapon against the enemy and a beacon of hope to those who don’t yet know Christ.

Take time to reflect on your story. How did Jesus change your life? What has He done in your heart and mind since you’ve started following Him? Sharing your story with others doesn’t have to be complicated—just be honest and let God speak through you.



Action:

Share your testimony with a friend or family member. Invite them to hear what Jesus has done in your life.



Prayer Focus:

Ask God to give you the courage and clarity to share your story with others. Here's a prayer to guide you:



Prayer:


“Lord, thank You for the story You’ve given me—the story of Your grace in my life. Give me the courage to share my testimony with others, and use my story to bring hope to those who don’t know You yet. Help me speak clearly and boldly about what You’ve done in my life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

21 day

What's Next?

Congratulations! You've made it to the end of this devotional, but your journey with Jesus is just beginning. Growing in your faith is a lifelong process, and there will always be new things to discover about God and His plans for your life. Now is the time to continue pressing into your relationship with God and to keep seeking Him daily.

Paul encouraged the Philippians with these words: *"And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns"* (Philippians 1:6 NLT). God has started an incredible work in your life, and He



will continue to grow you and shape you into the person He created you to be.

What's next for you? Continue reading the Bible, praying, and connecting with your church community. Seek out a mentor or pastor who can help guide you in your next steps. Most importantly, keep pursuing Jesus every day, knowing that He is with you and will continue to lead you in your faith journey.

**Next Step:**

Talk to a pastor or mentor about your next steps in faith. Keep growing and seeking God every day.

**Prayer Focus:**

Thank God for the journey you've been on, and ask Him to guide you as you continue to grow in your faith. Here's a prayer to help you close this devotional:

**Prayer:**

“Lord, thank You for bringing me through this devotional and for the work You’ve begun in my life. I trust that You will continue to lead me as I grow in my faith. Help me to stay close to You, seek You daily, and follow Your will for my life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

22 *day*

and Beyond: Continuing Your Journey – A Path to Spiritual Growth

Congratulations on completing this devotional! You've taken important steps in your relationship with Jesus, and we are so excited for what God has in store for you. But this is just the beginning! Your journey with

God is ongoing, and He has so much more for you to experience and discover.

To help you continue growing in your walk with Jesus, we want to introduce you to the **7 Steps to Spiritual Growth**. This simple guide will help you understand the key areas of growth as a follower of Christ. Each step is designed to help you keep moving forward, grow closer to God, and make a difference in the world around you.



The 7 Steps to Spiritual Growth: Your Next Steps in Faith

1. **Belong: Finding Community and Acceptance**

The first step in your journey is to find your place in a community of believers. God didn't design us to grow in isolation. We need other people to encourage us, challenge us, and support us as we follow Jesus. When you belong to a church community, you have a family that helps you grow, and you also have opportunities to help others grow in their faith.

“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” – Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)



Next Step:

Join a small group or ministry team in your church. Find a place where you can connect with others and grow together in faith.

2. Behold: Experiencing and Receiving God's Love Deeply

One of the most important parts of your walk with God is learning to experience and receive His love. When you spend time in worship and prayer, you are reminded of how much God loves you, and your relationship with Him grows deeper. It's not just about knowing God's love in your head—it's about experiencing it in your heart.

"We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them." — 1 John 4:16 (NLT)

Next Step:



Spend regular time in prayer and worship. Whether you're at church or at home, make time to be in God's presence and experience His love.

3. Believe: Understanding and Embracing Christian Teachings

Your faith will continue to grow as you learn more about who God is and what He has done for you. Studying the Bible and learning about Christian teachings is a key part of becoming a mature believer. As you dive deeper into God's Word, you will build a strong foundation for your faith and gain wisdom for how to live your life.

"But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name." — John 20:31 (NLT)



Next Step:

Continue studying the Bible and attending discipleship classes. Look for opportunities to learn and grow in your knowledge of God's truth.

4. Become: Personal Growth and Transformation Through Faith

God is in the process of transforming you to become more like Jesus. This transformation happens as you let God's Word and His Spirit shape your heart, mind, and actions. Becoming like Jesus is a lifelong process, and each day is an opportunity to grow in character, faith, and maturity.

"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." – Romans 12:2 (NLT)

Next Step:



Take time to reflect on areas of your life where you want to see growth and transformation. Ask God to continue working in those areas as you walk with Him.

5. Befriend: Building Meaningful Relationships and Community Connections

The Christian life isn't meant to be lived alone. As you grow in your faith, it's important to build strong, Christ-centered relationships that encourage and challenge you. Whether it's through friendships, small groups, or serving alongside others, meaningful relationships will help you grow in your walk with God and give you opportunities to pour into others as well.

"As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend." – Proverbs 27:17 (NLT)

Next Step:



Make an effort to connect deeply with others in the church. Whether it's through a small group or a mentoring relationship, build connections that will help you grow in faith.

6. Behave: Living Out Christ-like Character and Values

The way you live reflects what you believe. As a follower of Jesus, you are called to live in a way that reflects Christ's love, kindness, humility, and patience. Living out Christ-like character and values isn't about trying to be perfect—it's about letting the Holy Spirit work through you to reflect God's heart in all that you do.

"Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." — Colossians 3:12 (NLT)



Next Step:

Ask God to help you align your actions with Christ-like values. Reflect on areas where you can grow in kindness, humility, and love, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you live these out.

7. Bless: Engaging in Service to Bless Others and Reflect Christ's Love

We are blessed to be a blessing. God has given you unique gifts and talents, and He wants you to use them to serve others and reflect His love. Whether it's through serving in your church, community, or even in your day-to-day interactions, you can be a blessing to those around you by living generously and serving with a heart of love.

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another." – 1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)

Next Step:



Find a way to serve in your church or community. Ask God to show you how you can use your gifts to bless others.

How to Use the 7 Steps to Spiritual Growth

This guide isn't a list of things to do once and check off—it's a roadmap for your continued growth in Christ. As you move through each step, you'll revisit previous ones and continue to deepen your walk with God. You may find that as you grow in one area, God calls you to focus on another. That's part of the journey!

Remember, spiritual growth is a lifelong process, and we're excited to walk alongside you as you grow in faith, love, and service. You are never alone on this journey—God is with you every step of the way, and your church family is here to support you.



What's Next?

You've completed your first steps as a new believer, and we are so excited to see all the amazing things God will do in your life as you continue to choose Jesus every day. Keep seeking Him, keep growing, and never stop pursuing the incredible life God has planned for you.

*“Congratulations on completing ‘I Choose Jesus!’ You’ve laid a strong foundation for your faith, and now it’s time to grow deeper. The next step in your journey is our series, ‘**Rooted: Seven Steps to Deepen Your Walk with Jesus**,’ where you’ll continue to strengthen your relationship with God and discover how to live out your faith in powerful ways. Join us as we take this next step together, rooting ourselves firmly in Christ.”*