



Favored 1 Ministry

“Growing Together in God’s Word”



The Favored 1 Magazine

This week’s featured study

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2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” Favored 1 Ministry | Growing Together in God's Word |

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Welcome

Dear Friends,

Welcome once again to The Favored 1 Magazine, where we continue Growing Together in God's Word. Last week, we went back to the foundation and looked closely at what salvation means. We talked about why we need salvation, the importance of repentance, salvation through Jesus Christ, and what it means to become a new creature. But that brings us to an important question.

What happens after we accept Jesus Christ? What do we do now? For someone who has just accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior, this can be one of the biggest questions they have. You may believe in Jesus. You may have repented, You may have prayed and committed your life to Him. But then you may find yourself wondering: Now what? The Christian life doesn't end when we accept Jesus. That is where the journey begins. We begin learning who Jesus really is. We begin learning how to pray, how to read God's Word, how to recognize sin, how to repent, how to trust God, and how to allow Christ to change the way we live. This week, we're going to take a practical look at what it means to begin living as a new creature in Christ. My prayer is that this study will especially encourage anyone who is new in their walk with Jesus, while also reminding those of us who have followed Him for years that we should never stop growing. May the Lord richly bless you as we continue...

Growing Together in God's Word In Christ,

Johan

Favored 1 Ministry

From My Heart

Once you accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, as I did so many years ago, you may find yourself wondering, Is this all there is? What am I missing? For many years, that was exactly where I found myself. One day, someone asked me a simple question: How is your relationship with Jesus? I didn't know what to say. All I could respond with was, "What do you mean?" Then it hit me. I realized I was missing the very reason we accept Jesus and why we repent. I had spent many years reading Scripture and learning what God's Word said, all the while doing many of the very things Scripture told me not to do. I knew the Word, but I wasn't truly allowing the Word to change the way I lived. Once I realized that, I understood that I needed to buckle down and truly understand what it means to repent. I began by going back to what I knew. Before starting again in Genesis, I went back and read three books of the Bible: *John—not the epistles—Psalms, and Proverbs*. Why these three? Because they gave me a foundation for understanding all of Scripture and, more importantly, for learning how to truly live a Christ-filled life. John helped me understand Jesus—who He is and what it means to believe in Him. Psalms taught me how to bring my heart before God. It showed me that I could come before Him honestly—with fear, joy, confusion, pain, thanksgiving, repentance, and praise. Proverbs began teaching me how God desires us to live with wisdom. As I began to truly seek God, repent, and commit myself to reading and understanding His Word, my life began to change in ways I had only heard about before. One example was something I had heard people talk about: "A peace without understanding." I had heard those words before, but now I was beginning to understand what they meant. When you truly come to God, truly repent, and commit yourself to reading His Word, Jesus begins to show you who He is—and who He desires you to become. And something begins to happen within you. A peace comes over you that cannot be explained. It isn't because everything around you is perfect. It isn't because you suddenly have all the answers. It is because you are beginning to know Jesus—not simply know about Him. That is what I believe a new believer needs to understand. Accepting Jesus is not the end of the journey. It is the beginning.

There is so much more to discover, so much more to learn, and so much more that Jesus wants to do in your life. Start with Him. Get into His Word. Learn who He is. Learn what repentance truly means. And then allow Him to begin changing you from the inside out. That is where the journey of becoming a new creature truly begins.

Weekly Bible Study

Living as a New Creature - “I Accepted Jesus... Now What?”

Introduction

Have you ever wondered what happens after you accept Jesus Christ? Maybe you have prayed, repented, and placed your faith in Him. You know that you have made an important decision, but now you're asking: What do I do now? That question is important. Salvation is not simply about having our sins forgiven and then continuing to live exactly as we did before. When we come to Christ, He begins something new in us. The Bible calls us a new creature. But becoming a new creature doesn't mean that everything about us changes overnight. We may still struggle. We may still make mistakes. We may still face temptation. We may even fall into old habits from time to time. But something has changed. Our direction has changed. Our desire to know God begins to grow. Our understanding of sin begins to change. Our desire to please Christ begins to grow. And as we spend time in God's Word and surrender our lives to Him, He begins teaching us how to live. So, where do we begin? This week, we're going to look at four important steps in beginning our walk as a new creature in Christ.

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 5:14–21 (KJV)

This passage reminds us that when we are in Christ, we are no longer meant to live only for ourselves. Christ died and rose again so that those who live should live unto Him.

Paul tells us:

“Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Being a new creature means that Christ is beginning a new work in our lives. The question is:

Are we willing to let Him do that work?

Four Study Points

1. You Have Been Given a New Beginning. When we come to Jesus Christ, we don't simply add Christianity to the life we already have. Something new begins. The old life no longer has control over us.

Romans 6:4 (KJV) says:

“Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Notice those words: Walk in newness of life. Our Christian walk is a journey. We begin learning to leave behind the things that separated us from God and begin walking toward Him. That doesn't mean we become perfect overnight. It means we now have a new direction.

Thought: You don't have to remain the person you were before you came to Christ.

2. Start With Jesus

If you are a new believer and you're wondering where to begin reading the Bible, my personal recommendation is to begin with: John, then spend time in: Psalms and finally Proverbs before working your way through the rest of Scripture. This isn't a rule or a requirement found in Scripture. It is what I have found helpful in building a foundation for understanding God's Word and learning how to live a Christ-filled life.

Start with John - The Gospel of John introduces us to Jesus. We learn about His ministry, His teachings, His miracles, His relationship with the Father, His death, and His resurrection. Most importantly, we begin to understand: who Jesus is? and what it means to believe in Him.

John 20:31 (KJV) says:

“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”

Then spend time in Psalms - Psalms teaches us how to bring our hearts before God.

The writers of the Psalms cried out to God when they were afraid. They praised Him when they were joyful. They asked questions when they didn't understand. They confessed their failures. They worshipped. They trusted. Psalms can teach a new believer that having a relationship with God means bringing your ****whole heart**** before Him.

Then read Proverbs - Proverbs teaches practical wisdom for everyday life.

It speaks about our words, our decisions, our relationships, our attitudes, our work, our anger, our choices, and our relationship with God.

Proverbs 1:7 (KJV) says:

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge...”

Together, John, Psalms, and Proverbs can give a new believer a strong foundation:

Know Jesus. Know your heart before God. Learn how God wants you to live.

Thought: Before trying to understand everything in the Bible, start by getting to know the One the Bible points us toward—Jesus Christ.

3. Learn What True Repentance Means

This is one of the most important lessons I have learned in my own walk with Christ. Knowing Scripture and living Scripture are not always the same thing. I spent years reading God's Word and learning what it said while still doing many of the things it told me not to do. Eventually, I realized that I needed to understand repentance—not simply as saying, “I'm sorry,” but as truly turning toward God.

Acts 3:19 (KJV) says:

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...”

Repentance means that we recognize sin for what it is and turn away from it. But repentance also means turning toward God. When Jesus reveals something in our lives that needs to change, we shouldn't run from Him. We should run to Him. We confess it. We turn from it. We ask Him to forgive us. And then we allow Him to teach us how to walk differently. We will still stumble. We will still make mistakes. But a new creature doesn't make peace with sin. A new creature desires to become more like Christ.

Thought: Repentance isn't simply feeling bad about what you did. It's allowing God to change the direction of your life.

4. Let Jesus Change You From the Inside Out - One of the greatest mistakes we can make after accepting Jesus is thinking we have to change ourselves before God can use us. Jesus doesn't ask us to become perfect before coming to Him. He asks us to come to Him. As we walk with Him, He begins changing us. Our thoughts begin changing. Our attitudes begin changing. Our priorities begin changing. Our words begin changing. Our desires begin changing. And sometimes, we may not even notice the change at first. But one day, we look back and realize: I'm not the person I used to be. That is the work of God in our lives.

Philippians 1:6 (KJV) says:

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

God begins the work, and He continues the work. Our responsibility is to surrender ourselves to Him and keep walking. And sometimes, one of the greatest signs that God is changing us is something we can't explain. Peace. A peace that doesn't make sense according to our circumstances. A peace that the world cannot give us. A peace that comes from knowing that we belong to Jesus Christ.

Thought: You don't have to understand everything God is doing in you. You simply need to keep walking with Him.

Reflection Questions

- What does being a “new creature” mean to me personally?
 - Am I allowing Jesus Christ to change the way I live?
 - What areas of my old life do I need to surrender to God?
 - Do I understand the difference between feeling sorry for sin and truly repenting?
 - Am I spending enough time getting to know Jesus through God's Word?
 - What am I learning about Jesus as I read John?
 - What does Psalms teach me about bringing my heart before God?
 - What is Proverbs teaching me about how God wants me to live?
 - Can I see areas of my life that have changed since I began following Christ?
 - Am I trusting Jesus to continue the work He has started in me?
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This Week's Challenge

The New Creature Challenge

This week, begin—or begin again—your journey through John, Psalms, and Proverbs. Start with the Gospel of John. Don't rush through it. As you read, ask yourself: “What is Jesus showing me about Himself?”

Then spend time in Psalms and ask:

“What is God showing me about my relationship with Him?”

Finally, read Proverbs and ask:

“What is God teaching me about how I should live?”

Set aside time each day to pray before you read. Ask Jesus to reveal areas of your life that need to change. And when He reveals something, don't ignore it. Bring it to Him. Repent. Surrender it. Then keep walking. At the end of each day, ask yourself: “Did my life today reflect the Jesus I say I follow?” You don't have to have everything figured out. You simply need to keep growing.

Closing Encouragement

When you accept Jesus Christ, your journey doesn't end. It begins. You have been given a new beginning. You now have the opportunity to know Jesus in a deeper way, to understand God's Word, to learn how God wants you to live, and to allow Him to transform your life. There will be days when you get it right. There will be days when you stumble. There will be times when you feel close to God. There may even be times when you wonder where He is. But don't give up. Keep reading. Keep praying. Keep repenting. Keep trusting. Keep walking. And most importantly, keep your eyes on Jesus. If you are a new believer wondering, “What do I do now?” Start with Jesus. Open His Word. Get to know Him. Bring your heart before God. Learn His wisdom. Turn away from the things that pull you away from Him. And allow Him to change you from the inside out. You don't have to become a new creature by your own strength. Jesus is the One who makes us new. And as you continue walking with Him, there will come moments when you look back and realize that the person you once were is no longer who you are becoming. You will begin to understand what it means to have a peace that cannot be explained. That is the beginning of walking as a new creature in Christ.

Closing Scripture

Philippians 1:6 (KJV)

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

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