

## PATHWAY TO PEACE: BIBLE STUDY GUIDE – LESSON 8

### **Lesson 8: “From Seed to Fruit”**

In Luke 8:11 a seed is compared to the Word of God. When the seed of God, His Word, is planted in your life, friend, it has the great potential of producing fruits that will please God. That great potential to produce beautiful fruit with a Christ-like character is only realized when you openly receive the daily nourishment that only God can provide through the Word of God.

When you are truly sorry for your sin, and receive and plant the Word of God in your life, and when you confess your specific sins to God and accept His forgiveness through the blood of Jesus Christ, what does God expect from you next? Or in other words what happens next after God forgives you? What is your next step on the road of God’s salvation? Let's explore this thought provoking question and more in the Holy Bible.

1. **After you sincerely repent and confess our sins to God you are made blameless or you are justified through the blood of Jesus Christ, what are you expected to do next? Or in other words, what does God expect of us after we repent and confess our sins and accept His forgiveness?**

**Read ALL the following Bible texts:** Acts 3:19; Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Isaiah 55:6-7; John 5:1 -14; John 8:10,11; Ezekiel 33:11

**Write Bible Answer:**

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“Convert” in the original Hebrew and Greek languages means to “turn.” After we are forgiven God wants us to turn from old sinful habits. There are three keys that indicate change and that is converted, transformed, and new. Remember when you give your life to Jesus Christ, He doesn’t just improve your life, He radically changes and transforms your life. So after you totally give your life to Jesus Christ and are cleansed from your sins, you are made blameless before God, justified. And then God expects our characters (body and mind) to go through a total transformation that reflects the image of God for His glory. The Bible reveals that our old sinful character must be converted into a righteous and lovely character in order to be “good, acceptable, and perfect” unto God. We must become a new person in which old sinful habits are released. So if you are sincere when you totally give your life to God He will totally free you from all destructive sinful habits no matter what they are.

2. **What must I be in order to live that new transformed life in Jesus Christ?**

**Read ALL the following Bible texts:** John 3:1 – 8; John 1:12, 13; 1 Peter 1:21 – 25; 1 John 2:28, 29; 1 John 3:9;

**Write Bible Answer:**

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All who sincerely give their lives totally to Christ for the first time are spiritual babies. They are born again into a new life in Jesus Christ. When we are born of God we are now the sons and daughters of God according to **John 1:12, 13. 1 John 2:28, 29** reveals that those who are born of God will follow after the righteousness of Jesus Christ. When the seed of God's Word remain in us we would not want to sin against our Savior. **1 John 3:9** says, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."

### **3. What are new born babes in Christ instructed to do according to the Bible?**

**Read ALL the following Bible texts:** 1 Peter 2:1 – 3; Ephesians 4:13 – 15; Hebrews 5:12 – 14; 1 Peter 1:14 -16; Matthew 5:48

**Write Bible Answer:**

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So it is evident from these passages of scriptures that after you comes to God for the first time, repent, confess your sins to God, and you are forgiven, you are spiritual babe or child, but God as forgiven you He expects all spiritual babies or children to grow. According in to Ephesians 4:13, all that sincerely come to Christ and claim Him as their personal Saviour are to grow up in the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. In other words, God instructs us to grow up into a character that totally and fully reflects the character of Jesus Christ. Just as a natural newborn baby must be fed nourishing milk to grow, in a spiritual sense after you or I become as a baby in Christ, we should crave the pure spiritual milk of Christ that will give us the nourishment needed to grow spiritually in the fullness Christ. In other words, you should crave the pure Word of God. You should study the Bible for yourself daily in order to be spiritually fed. If a newborn baby does not eat, what will eventually happen to that baby? The newborn baby would die. The same is true for new babies in Christ; they must get all their daily spiritual nourishment from the study the Word of God in order to grow spiritually. It is essential. If you are a new born in Christ and do not study or drink the spiritual milk of God's word daily for yourself you will quickly die spiritually. Now in the physical sense as a newborn baby grows, he or she is gradually given solid foods that will give him or her more strength. When the newborns grow up as teenagers they should not still be drinking only milk as a meal, they should be eating full course solid meals. If a teenager only drank milk as a meal, I suppose that teen would get very weak and would not be growing very much, in fact, if the teenager only drank milk every day the teenager would probably get sick and die because it would need more nutrition for his or her growing body than a baby. God expects us to grow as well and become better students of the Bible not just on the "milk" but gradually on the solid food of the word of God.

**Hebrews 5:12-14** says "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which [be] the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. V.13 For every one that useth milk [is] unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. V.14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, [even] those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

So as a new Christian or a babe in Christ, God instructs all his babes or children to graduate from the spiritual milk of His Word to eating full course meals of Gods spiritual truths and goodness. If you want to grow spiritually in Christ, you **MUST** study God's Word, His Holy Bible daily, not weekly or monthly or when you find time to do it, but daily. This is essential and there are no exceptions.

**1 Peter 1:14-16** says <sup>14</sup>As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: <sup>15</sup>But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; <sup>16</sup>Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

In this text God instructs all Christians to be obedient to His Word as obedient children and to fill our minds with holy things and avoid in partaking the unholy things of Satan. Also He instructs us to be holy as He is holy. And in **Matthew 5:48** Jesus says, <sup>48</sup>**Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.**

**4. What makes it realistically and practically possible for you and me to be transformed and grow up into the likeness of Christ and to be made holy unto God?**

**Read ALL the following Bible texts:** Philippians 2:13; John 15:4 – 7; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; 2 Timothy 2:15; Mark 4:28; Luke 12:27

**Write Bible Answer:**

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When you accept Christ as your personal Saviour, it is God who gives you the will and desire to please Him. **John 15:4 – 7** are God's promises to us if we continually remain attached to Christ. He is essential for our spiritual growth and Christ-like character. The occasional attention to spiritual things or religious experience is not abiding in Christ. Riding high on a wave of spiritual intensity one day, only to fall low into a period of neglect the next, does not promote spiritual strength. To abide in Christ means that we must daily be in a constant communication with Christ for strength and guidance. **First Thessalonians 5:17** says that we must "Pray without ceasing". In other words our minds must be in a constant attitude of prayer or communion with God regardless of our surroundings and circumstances. Also we find in **2 Timothy 2:15** says, <sup>15</sup>Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. So we need to daily study the Bible. We must be aware that Satan, will do whatever he can to sever your dependence on the Vine, Christ Jesus. We can not depend on our branch or the surrounding branches for spiritual life and fruit because they do not come from the branches it comes from the VINE, Christ. There are no secrets in growing up in Christ. Let's examine practical and realistic lessons that are given in the next two texts for those growing in Christ and trying to live a holy life in Christ.

**Mark 4:28 and Luke 12:27** reveals to us how dependent plants and flowers are on the lovely hands of God. It is God who brings the bud to bloom and the flower to fruit. By His power and grace the seed planted in fertile ground will grow into a beautiful plant or tree reflecting God's glory and His mighty power. It can not grow by worry, or on its own care, but by the giving nourishments of God, sunshine, rain, and air. So it is with our spiritual growth into the fullness of Christ. As a child, through worry, we could not add inches to our height. No more can you, by worry or effort yourself secure spiritual growth. If we abide in Him and Him in us we will continually grow in the grace, joy and fullness of Christ, holy and acceptable unto God. (Thoughts from Steps to Christ p. 45-46).

**MUST READ!!!**

If you lack anything, faith, wisdom, knowledge, or even the will to do right, claim **John 14:14** where Jesus says, “<sup>14</sup>If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*.” Jesus will supply all your needs. If you have doubt or worry about your spiritual growth in Christ claim, **Psalms 55: 22** where it says “<sup>22</sup>Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.” If you feel like you just can not make it and just feel like giving up, especially if you just keep falling back into sin, claim God’s promise in **Philippians 4:13** “<sup>13</sup>I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” All of God’s precious promises are true. They are real, but you must put your full trust in Him. You must genuinely believe in all of God’s precious promises to us. Even in the midst of pain and adversity you can abide in Christ and claim the promises of God and have peace. God is the only true source of life that you can turn to. **Proverbs 3:5** says, <sup>5</sup>Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. And **Isaiah 26:4** says <sup>4</sup>Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH *is* everlasting strength. We must fully trust in God and His promises in the Word of God. Remember study the Word of God daily. Make God a priority in your life right now.