



A DEVOTIONAL FOR NEW CHRISTIANS

# WHAT NOW?

WRITTEN BY NICK HENDERSON



# About the Author

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I have had the pleasure of serving in full-time ministry for the past four years in the great state of Texas. Specifically, I work with High School students at Second Baptist Church in Houston. In doing so, I have developed a deep passion to see young people come into a relationship with Christ and honor Him with their lives.

# CONTENTS

## Introduction

**Day 1:** I just got saved, what now?

**Day 2:** How can I be sure I am saved If I don't feel anything?

**Day 3:** What is sin?

**Day 4:** What if I sin after I am saved?

**Day 5:** If God forgives all my mistakes, why can't I do whatever I want?

**Day 6:** Can I be a Christian without going to church?

**Day 7:** Why should I read the Bible?

**Day 8:** I want to read the Bible; where do I start?

**Day 9:** Can I keep my close friends after becoming a Christian?

**Day 10:** How do I share my faith with my friends?

## Conclusion

# INTRODUCTION

Becoming a Christian and committing your life to Christ is the best decision you will ever make. If you've made that decision, I am pumped for you and proud of you.

But the second-best decision you will ever make is deciding to live your life the way God wants you to. Let go of your previous life and pick up the life God is calling you towards. This devotional is designed to help you do just that!

In this devotional, there are 10 day's worth of questions and answers. The questions are some of the most common questions new Christians ask and for sure were some that I asked (and still do at times!) My hope is that this devotional helps clear any confusion you may have and sets you up to do amazing things for our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Now that we understand the purpose of this little book, let's look at some pro tips:

1. **When doing this devotional, always have a bible handy.** If you don't have one, download the bible app and use that instead.
2. **Before beginning each day, take a second or two to ask God to help you learn and apply the reading for that day.** Prayer is powerful.
3. **Know that you can use this devotional as a consistent reference and that it's not something you should only read through once.** Use it anytime you need some clarity.
4. **Share the information you learn here with friends who also have questions.** Faith is better when it is shared.

With all of that said, let's get started!

DAY 1

# I JUST GOT SAVED, WHAT NOW?

"GOD BECAME MAN TO TURN CREATURES  
INTO SONS: NOT SIMPLY TO PRODUCE  
BETTER MEN OF THE OLD KIND BUT TO  
PRODUCE A NEW KIND OF MAN."

- C.S. LEWIS

As a youth pastor, I get the joy of being a part of many conversion conversations and God talks. Discussions in which result in someone placing their faith in Jesus Christ, confessing Him as Lord. These conversations are eternally significant. One starts the talk on their way to Hell and finishes it on their way to Heaven!

It's an incredible thing to be a part of. In every talk, there is a sense of excitement, peace, and freedom for the new Christian. Shortly after though, there is the all-consuming and common question: Now what?

Now that I have made the biggest decision of my life, changed the course of my eternity, and committed to serving Christ instead of myself - what do I do now?

That's a good question. Because without an answer, one is left only to wonder what God's plan is for them in this life. Almost always resulting in a less than adequate Christian walk and a dishonoring of God in the process. This post will seek to answer that important question in a practical manner that one can apply to their everyday life immediately.

There are THREE things every new Christian should do to set themselves up for success in their newfound faith:

**1. Get connected to the Christian community.** Aka, go to church! For most Christians, their conversion took place in a church. So, the first thing they should do is get involved and plugged into that church. For those who got saved outside of a church or at a standalone event - find a church and get connected.

If the church has small groups or bible study classes, join one. Don't be too picky - just choose a group. You can always change later. These are the people who will encourage and keep you accountable in your walk with God.

After joining a group of some sort, find a place to serve. Christianity is like any sporting endeavor - it's more fun when you're in the game! No matter how new of a Christian you are, you can make an impact in the local church. You can do anything: Greet, usher, social media, work with youth (fav), join the worship team, etc.

**2. Get Baptized.** Baptism is a public profession of an inward confession of Christ as Lord. It symbolizes the death (above water), burial (underwater), and resurrection (coming out of water) of Christ.

Candidly, you can get saved and not tell a single soul. No one would have to know. Baptism is different, it is public, not private. If getting saved is joining the team, then baptism is putting on the jersey. It showcases to everyone that you're not ashamed of being a Christian.

Baptism is also commanded in scripture (Matt 28:19-20). Following through with Baptism is a matter of being obedient to what God has called us to do. It's very important.

**3. Establish spiritual disciplines in your life.** Going to church and getting baptized are very public actions, while spiritual disciplines primarily take place in private.

Spiritual disciplines can include but are not limited to bible reading, daily prayer, meditation, scripture memorization, watching sermons online, journaling, and so on. For simplicity's sake, the two you should focus on first should be bible reading and prayer. The Bible is God's primary guiding force in your life. Through the scriptures, he leads us towards the life we are called to live.

So, start with a chapter a day and read it when you wake up in the morning. I recommend starting in the book of James. It's a very practical and straightforward book.

For prayer, just start by praying before and after your quiet time. Ask God to bless your bible reading and afterward thank Him for what He spoke to you. Then, eventually, work it into your daily rhythms to the point that you are "praying without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17)."

Those are the three things! I pray they provide you a succinct answer to the question: now what?

Let the next steps of consistent church attendance, baptism, and spiritual disciplines help you in that journey of following Him wherever He may lead.

WHAT NOW?

# WHAT NOW?

READ ON: PETER 3:20-22

REFLECT: WHICH OF THOSE THREE THINGS  
HAVE I PUT OFF AND NEED TO DO?



DAY 2

HOW CAN I BE SURE  
I'M SAVED IF I DON'T  
FEEL ANYTHING?

"THROUGH SALVATION, OUR PAST HAS  
BEEN FORGIVEN, OUR PRESENT IS GIVEN  
MEANING, AND OUR FUTURE IS SECURED." -  
- RICK WARREN

An insight to remember throughout your life is this: feelings are real, but they are not always reliable. Often, we allow our feelings to drive our thoughts and conclusions, rather than facts. This is especially true in our faith walk. In certain circumstances, emotions can speak to us so much louder than God's predetermined principles!

This problem pops up is when we begin to ponder over our salvation. We may remember the moment of trusting Christ but expected something different to take place as a result. Perhaps, at the time, we felt a rush of emotion. We were excited and motivated to follow God no matter what.

But now that some time has passed, everything feels the same again. You feel like how you did before you got saved, leaving you to wonder: Am I really saved if I don't feel anything?

The answer to that question is yes, yes, and absolutely yes. Remember: feelings are real, but not always reliable. So, don't let them be the primary indicator of whether your salvation is authentic or not. Instead, let the facts of God's Word be the true sign of your salvation.

Specifically, two places in the bible outline God's promise of grace:

**1. Romans 10:9** - "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

To be saved you must confess Christ as Lord and repent of your sins. If you have done this, it's a done deal - you are saved! Don't let doubts cloud the clarity of you being saved. On the other hand, if you have not trusted Christ as Lord yet, then find a good Christian friend or pastor and ask them how. They'd love to help you with that!

**2. Romans 8:38** - "And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love."

Guess what? God isn't going anywhere. He loves you and isn't going to stop loving you. You are good! Don't sweat your salvation, God has it handled.

Your salvation is secured and in Godly hands.

WHAT NOW?

# WHAT NOW?

READ ON: ROMANS 8:37-39

REFLECT: DO I TRULY TRUST THAT GOD HAS  
SECURED MY SALVATION?

DAY 3

# WHAT IS SIN?

"BUT EACH PERSON IS TEMPTED WHEN HE IS  
LURED AND ENTICED BY HIS OWN DESIRE.  
THEN DESIRE WHEN IT HAS CONCEIVED  
GIVES BIRTH TO SIN, AND SIN, WHEN IT IS  
FULLY GROWN, BRINGS FORTH DEATH." -  
JAMES 1:14-15

Sin, unfortunately, has become a very ambiguous word. It is used in so many ways in our world today, with most of those ways being incorrect. Sin, culturally speaking, is now synonymous with anything risky, provocative, or even sneaky. It's primarily used as a joke rather than a serious description. Which is sad because it is far from humorous.

And though sin does involve some of those things, they are not exhaustive descriptions of it. A simple, biblical definition of sin is this: *Anything done in opposition to the Word or Will of God.*

For example, murdering someone is a sin. Why? Because Exodus 20:13 tells us not to. Going against God's Word (His Law) is sin.

In another case, refusing to share the gospel with your friends is a sin as well. Why? Because Matthew 28:16-20 tells us to share the gospel with the world. It is God's Will for us. Operating in opposition to that is sin.

Trust me, this stuff is not complex. Sin is simple in concept, but still very difficult to abstain from.

It is difficult to abstain from for most because they don't understand how serious sin is. They just see it as a minor mistake or mishap, but it's far more than that.

Below are some points that show what is so bad about sin:

**1. Sin has horrible consequences.** God's Will and Word, among other things, should operate as guard rails in your life. His instructions are better off obeyed. If not, then we risk going off the cliff.

In plain terms, there are tangible, as well as spiritual, reasons Christians don't partake in pre-marital sex, getting drunk, lying, and so on. These actions all have real and negative consequences.

**2. Sin separates us from God.** This is a scary reality and likely more significant than the first point. Our sin separates us from our Lord. This is what makes sin more than just a "mistake." It is an offense against our Almighty God!



God is Holy, perfect, and cannot be around anything that is not. So, when we sin, we continually widen the chasm between us and Him. This is serious stuff.

That's why God gets so angry at people throughout scripture who continually sin. One, they are ruining their own lives, and two they are diminishing their relationship with Him in the process.

Thankfully, God loves us so much that sent His Son Jesus Christ to die for us (John 3:16). Providing us a path to a relationship with God, despite our sins.

WHAT NOW?

# WHAT NOW?

READ ON: MARK 7:20-23

REFLECT: WHAT SIN IS PRESENT IN MY LIFE  
THAT I NEED TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT?

DAY 4

# WHAT IF I SIN AFTER I'M SAVED?

"IF WE SAY WE HAVE NO SIN, WE DECEIVE OURSELVES, AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN US. IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE IS FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS AND TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS. IF WE SAY WE HAVE NOT SINNED, WE MAKE HIM A LIAR, AND HIS WORD IS NOT IN US"

- 1 JOHN 1:8-10

I came to know Christ as a teenager. I will never forget the feeling and determination I had in repenting of my sin and choosing to follow Jesus for the rest of my life.

Yet, after a short period, I began to fall short of my commitment to Him. I found myself feeling tempted again. I loved Jesus; I knew I did. But I still had an overwhelming desire to sin again.

It made me wonder at the time: "What if I sin after I'm saved?" Will I go to Hell? Will God leave me? Let's talk about that.

To start, just know that you WILL sin after you are saved. It is inevitable, everybody will at some point. We are all fallen people living in a fallen and sinful world (Rom. 3:23). And nobody understands that reality more than God. The good news is that He has plenty of grace to go around for our inevitable mistakes.

After salvation, your sins are not going to send you to Hell or make God leave you (Rom. 8:38-39). Specifically, 1 John 1:8-10 talks about confessing our sins often.

All Christians sin. No matter how perfect you may perceive them as. Yet, God is ready and able to forgive us of our sins. The only prerequisite is confessing that sin to Him.

Confession is just a spiritual term for acknowledging our mistakes and faults to God. If we do not confess our sins regularly it remains as a wedge between us and God. Which is a serious matter.

Yes, our salvation is based on our faith in God's grace and gospel, but that does not mean we don't have to own up to our faults and failures along the way. Remember: NOTHING will ever separate you from God salvation-wise. But not acknowledging the sin in your life will result in an unclean conscience, guilt, and a burden you were never meant to carry.

Perhaps an illustration will help clear things up (Credits: Gotquestions.org):

Think of your relationship with God like the sun shining through your window on a cold day. It is a little chilly inside but the sun's warm rays on your skin feel incredible. Now, think of your sin as a dark shade that is pulled down in front of the window, blocking a good portion of the sun's warm rays and disrupting the delightful experience.

The sun, God's grace, in this case, is of course strong enough to shine through the shade. But it still is dimmed and therefore not as impactful as it could be with the shade. The only way to lift the shade is by consistently confessing your sins to God. In doing so, the shade lifts and you experience the full effect of His grace.

God never moved, nor did His grace weaken. It was sin that set up a barrier that blocked your ability to enjoy His forgiveness and mercy.

Acknowledging mistakes to God should be a daily practice for all Christians, not just at salvation and conversion.



WHAT NOW?

# WHAT NOW?

READ ON: 1 JOHN 1

REFLECT: WHAT SIN DO I NEED TO CONFESS  
TO GOD?

IF GOD FORGIVES ALL MY  
MISTAKES, WHY CAN'T I  
DO WHATEVER I WANT?

"WELL THEN, SHOULD WE KEEP ON SINNING SO  
THAT GOD CAN SHOW US MORE AND MORE OF  
HIS WONDERFUL GRACE?2 OF COURSE NOT!  
SINCE WE HAVE DIED TO SIN, HOW CAN WE  
CONTINUE TO LIVE IN IT?"  
- ROMANS 6:1-2 (NLT)

Even as a brand-new Christian, I recognized a real issue in my youth group. It was this issue that almost turned me off from Christianity altogether. The issue: People who proclaim that they love and follow Jesus yet continue to sin and act however they want.

They would be at youth group every week, but still, go to parties on the weekends, be inappropriate in their dating relationships and act counter to how a Christ-follower should act.

And the worse part was, the more I thought about it, I realized I was a part of the issue myself. I was no angel and made many mistakes along the way. I knew I was forgiven by God and going to Heaven, but I still felt convicted about what I was doing. It was all so confusing for me.

Seeing my Christian constituents and knowing my struggles, I wondered: If God forgives all my mistakes, why can't I do whatever I want? In answering this question, we must remember: God's grace should be embraced but never abused.

In His infinite love, God has provided us forgiveness, mercy, and grace that we do not deserve. We should embrace that and know we are forgiven! But, in the process of embracing His grace, we must never abuse it. Abusing it involves living a life of perpetual sin, knowing we are forgiven and going to Heaven anyway.

There are lots of reasons not to abuse God's grace, here are a few:

**1. The Bible begs us not to live this way.** In Romans 6:1-2, the Apostle Paul is addressing this same issue to the people in Rome. In doing so, he talks about how we should never sin with the assumption that God's grace will just keep increasing to cover our sins.

Don't get me wrong, God's grace won't run out on us. But we should not take advantage of that by purposely continuing to live in sin. It goes directly against what God has called us to do with our lives.

**2. Not living in line with God's ways will mess our lives up.** God's rules in His Word are meant to serve as guardrails for us. They are not there just to make our lives less fun. When followed, God's way is better than our way. Sure, you may still go to Heaven doing whatever you want, but your life on Earth will be Hell.

Living a life of purity is more fulfilling than promiscuity. Always being honest is superior to leading a life of a liar. Honoring and respecting your parents results in a better outcome than not doing so.

**3. If you feel no desire to do what God wants you to do over what you want to do, you ought to check your commitment to Christ.** This is a hard truth, but if you have truly given your life to God, you should want to serve Him with it. You are not going to be perfect, but there should be something within you that wants to honor Him with your choices.

If that desire is not within you, then I would encourage you to check your commitment to Christ. Perhaps you never truly made it.

With all of this said, we must remember one thing. We do not live for God out of guilt, but out of gratitude. Gratitude for the undeserved, amazing grace and forgiveness He has given us. We do not live for Him out of guilt and worry that if we don't act properly, He will leave us.

He is not going anywhere. He loves us, even in our sinful, imperfect forms (Rom. 5:8).

WHAT NOW?

# WHAT NOW?

READ ON: ROMANS 6

REFLECT: IN WHAT WAYS MIGHT I BE  
ABUSING OR TAKING ADVANTAGE OF GOD'S  
GRACE?



DAY 6

# CAN I BE CHRISTIAN WITHOUT GOING TO CHURCH?

"IF YOU DON'T GO TO CHURCH, WHY  
WOULD YOU WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN?"  
- UNKNOWN

I used to think the church was silly. I was 15 years old at the time and I was quite the critic. Known by some as a “know it all.” I loved Jesus, read my bible, watched sermons and quite honestly felt I was significantly further along than my peers - spiritually speaking. It wasn't true, but it was my honest perspective at the time.

I did all the Christian things, except go to church. I saw the church as nothing more than a glorified event center that occasionally had okay public speaking, decent music, and free pizza.

This was my mindset until I was invited by a friend to attend their Youth Group worship service. I was initially opposed, but I knew some people going so I went.

Upon attending, I found most of the things I expected: music, speaking, and pizza (which I wasn't mad about, btw). But I also found something that I wasn't expecting - community. People who embraced me and were so excited to see me. They welcomed me in with open arms and ended up becoming people with who I would build strong bonds - some even to this day.

So, in answering the question of “Can I be Christian without going to Church?” You can be Christian, meaning being saved by the blood and work of Christ on the cross, without ever attending a church. The thief on the cross probably wasn't “plugged into” into his local church congregation. Yet, Jesus promised him salvation and eternity in paradise. (Luke 23:39-43)

On the other hand, the idea that you can ever live out your complete purpose for the glory of God on the Earth without attending church is pretty much impossible. Why? Because as my old campus pastor at college would say: “The local church is God's plan A for the growth and development of His people and there is no plan B.”

God called us to make and grow as disciples through the planting and attending of local churches. Churches that provide a place to worship, serve and sacrifice together as a body of Christ. (Hebrews 10:25)

Christianity is not something you can live out fully by yourself. Sure, you can be saved but making a dent in the world in honor of the Lord is not plausible without the community the local church offers.

We all need Christian camaraderie. It is the oxygen to our “live for the Lord every day” lungs. We need to be encouraged, held accountable, and carried by other Christians in this life.

With all of that said, be convinced in your heart and soul that going to church doesn’t make you a Christian as much as sitting in a garage doesn’t make you a car. But don’t let that fact negate the necessity of being involved in a local church.

WHAT NOW?

# WHAT NOW?

READ ON: HEBREWS 10:19-39

REFLECT: IS MY CHURCH ATTENDANCE  
CONSISTENT OR INCONSISTENT?

DAY 7

# WHY SHOULD I READ THE BIBLE?

"STUDY THIS BOOK OF INSTRUCTION  
CONTINUALLY. MEDITATE ON IT DAY AND  
NIGHT SO YOU WILL BE SURE TO OBEY  
EVERYTHING WRITTEN IN IT. ONLY THEN WILL  
YOU PROSPER AND SUCCEED IN ALL YOU DO."

- JOSHUA 1:8 (NLT)



As Christians, we all ponder on this question at some point. Specifically, when we are tired, running late, busy, or all the above. We see our bible on our nightstand waiting to be read and wonder, "What's the big deal about reading my bible anyways?" "Does it even matter that much?"

Yes, it does matter.

Remember this: The bible is God's primary way of talking to you. That's a conversation you don't want to miss. If God is going to speak to you, it is likely going to be through His written Word - AKA the Bible. It is vital to not forgo bible reading for that reason.

Unfortunately, though, daily bible reading has developed a poor reputation. Especially with the last generation or so. It is seen as a mere religious practice rather than a key communication avenue with your awesome God!

Many people just read the bible because some pastor or parent told them to. So, in hopes of pleasing that person and doing what is right, they attempt to read it without any understanding as to why they should in the first place. Eventually resulting in a very unproductive quiet time or no quiet time at all because they gave up on it.

We must know why we do something to have any sort of passion in practicing it. Spiritually speaking, reading the bible is how we hear God's voice. Practically, there are many reasons to read the bible. Here are three:

**1. The Bible helps us find answers to questions about our Faith.** God's Word provides us with clarity for things we might be unsure of.

If you're wondering if getting drunk is a sin, check out Ephesians 5:18. If you are curious about whether God still loves you after a mistake or two, read Romans 5:8. If you need to know what the bible says about sex outside of marriage, give 1 Cor. 6:18-20 a look.

**2. The Bible keeps us from making as many mistakes.** To be clear, you will never be perfect - at least not until you get to Heaven! But you can improve your behavior to better honor God and reading the bible is a prime way to do that.

Daily bible reading acts as a mirror. It shows us God's standard and reveals our sins and shortcomings. Pretty tough to continue watching porn when you're consistently reading about how you should flee from sexual immorality (1 Cor. 6:18). It gets hard to gossip after seeing what God says about slander (Prov. 16:28).

**3. The Bible fixes our focus on the main thing.** Reading the bible regularly keeps you grounded and going after the right things in life. What are the right things in life? Anything that glorifies God. You will find yourself less concerned with sports, people issues, grades and more worried about honoring God in every facet of your life.

The consistent consumption of Christian content corrects our focus.

In sum, do not forsake your bible readings. It is one of the most important things you can do to stay in step with what God has for you in this life and the next!

WHAT NOW?

# WHAT NOW?

READ ON: 2 TIMOTHY 3:10-17

REFLECT: WHAT PART OF MY DAY CAN I  
DEDICATE TO READING THE BIBLE?

DAY 8

# I WANT TO READ THE BIBLE: WHERE DO I START?

"YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE GREAT TO GET  
STARTED, BUT YOU HAVE TO GET  
STARTED TO BE GREAT."

- LES BROWN

In many facets of the faith, we start strong but then quickly give up the discipline. It shows up in our inconsistent church attendance, poor prayer life but even more so in our bible reading.

We go into our devotions with so much excitement but eventually fall out of the habit. Letting our bible serve as nothing more than a glorified coaster.

This problem plagues many Christian practitioners. And the reason is this: without clear direction, people lack the necessary determination. People don't forgo their bible reading because they are all lazy people who don't follow through on anything. They forgo it because they have no clue where to start or what to do.

So, in hopes of gaining some direction, let's answer the question for all of those wondering: "Where do I start when reading the bible?"

It's not as simple as just picking up in Genesis and reading to Revelation. That is a big undertaking and can be confusing for someone new to the Faith. Instead, choose a bible book that is practical and is easy to understand. Then move on to bigger, more complex books (like Revelation) after that.

Don't read me wrong: ALL the bible is inspired by God and useful for us as believers. Yet, some books are better suited for the new believer. Books that are great to start with are:

**1. The Gospel of Mark.** All the gospels are a great place to start, but the gospel of Mark specifically is an easy read. It is all about Jesus and the work He did in the world and on the cross. It provides details about who Jesus was and what He was like when on Earth. There is no better way to increase our affection for God than by reading about His Son's loving work for us firsthand.

**2. The book of Galatians.** This book is written by the Apostle Paul and is all about God's grace. Often, we think our salvation is tethered to what we DO when it is about what God DID for us on the cross. The book continually points to God's love and forgiveness for His people and provides a great perspective for the maturing believer.

**3. The book of James.** The author of this book is James (duh). But he has an interesting story as he is Jesus' brother! So, he has a unique perspective on Christ, to say the least. James serves as a great balance to Galatians as the book is heavy on the fact that faith without works is dead. If all you do is say you are a Christian but never act like one - you are probably not one. It is easy to understand and is a great reminder for all believers.

**4. Proverbs.** They say a proverb a day keeps the foolish away. I could not agree more! This book is known as "wisdom literature" and has some incredible insights. One of the wisest men in history, King Solomon, wrote the book. It is a collection of wise sayings to live by. Great for memory verses and daily reading!

**5. Genesis.** Last on the list but first in the bible is Genesis. This book, among others, was written by Moses. It talks everything about God creating mankind, animals, the Earth, and everything else. This book gives us a glimpse into how it all started. It also sets the foundation for everything that is to come. Genesis is a must-read!

With all of that, this is not an exhaustive list. There are many more bible books that deserve a spot, but I have found these to be especially helpful for newer believers or those still trying to settle into their quiet time. So, choose one of the books and just start reading.

Don't do more than a chapter a day at first. Pace yourself and play the long game. It's the only game that gets you anywhere in your faith.

WHAT NOW?

# WHAT NOW?

READ ON: MARK 1

REFLECT: HOW CONSISTENT IS MY BIBLE  
READING?

DAY 9

# CAN I KEEP MY CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS AFTER BECOMING CHRISTIAN?

"SHOW ME YOUR FRIENDS AND I WILL  
SHOW YOU YOUR FUTURE."

- DAN PENA



I came to know Christ as a sophomore in High School. I was 16 years of age at the time.

Relatively speaking, my conversion to Christianity came at an older age than most of my Christian constituents. They were all saved as Children for the most part.

Whereas for me, I was both new to the church and the people that went there. I liked them, but at that point, they were not my closest friends. Most of my close friendship slots were filled with people who weren't Christian. They were sports teammates, classmates, and so on. I loved them and they were great friends!

Yet, week after week in the youth service I would hear about how our environment is everything. That we need to surround ourselves with people who love God and push us further in our walk with Him.

Which, candidly, is good advice. But did put me in a tough spot because many of my friends were not Christian. It caused me to wonder: Can I keep my close friendships after becoming a Christian?

The short answer is it depends. The Bible is clear on one thing: Bad company corrupts good morals (1 Cor. 15:33). Or as Denzel Washington once said, "Hang around the barbershop long enough and you're going to get a haircut."

Whom we surround ourselves with plays a massive role in how we behave and operate. It's a fact of life. If your crew loves Christ, then you inevitably will. If they don't, then you most likely will falter in your faith.

So, it seems wise to steer clear of and cut off all your non - Christian relationships... but not so fast! Because there was a man named Jesus who spent plenty of time with those who weren't believers (Mark 2:15). He was the epitome of spiritual maturity but, felt it was okay to chop it up with those who weren't Christian.

As believers, we are called to follow the example of Christ. Consistently asking the question "What would Jesus do?" Well, Jesus was not afraid to spend time and have relationships with unbelievers and neither should you! But there are two important things to note about what Jesus did in conjunction with having those relationships.

**1. He was close with God and had strong spiritual habits.** Jesus knew the Word of God, prayed consistently, fasted, and so on (Mark 1). Before entering the influence of others, he was already heavily influenced by His Father in Heaven.

So, before you go hanging out with your non - Christian friends make sure you have been hanging and spending time with your Savior.

**2. Jesus had a CORE group of solid, Christian friends.** They were his twelve disciples and he spent lots of time with them (Matt. 20:17). In the same way, make sure you season your friendships with some strong Christian pals. People that will push you closer to Christ.

Plus, maybe even some of your non - Christian friends will mingle with your Christian ones and come to know Christ! Which, by the way, should be our goal for anyone in our circle.

We don't keep our faith to ourselves, we spread it unashamedly.

Many of my friends from high school have come into a relationship with Christ because of me not cutting them off and sticking to the standard that Jesus set. The same thing can happen to you.

He is going to do something amazing in the lives of your friends through you. Stay close to Him and continue to foster God-honoring relationships.

WHAT NOW?

# WHAT NOW?

READ ON: ECCLESIASTES 4:8-12

REFLECT: DO MY FRIENDS PUSH ME  
FURTHER IN MY FAITH?

DAY 10

# HOW DO I SHARE MY FAITH WITH MY FRIENDS?

"OUR FAITH BECOMES STRONGER AS WE  
EXPRESS IT; A GROWING FAITH  
IS A SHARING FAITH."  
- BILLY GRAHAM

After accepting Christ as the Lord of my life, I was fired up about doing what He wanted me to do with my life. The mission seemed clear, and I was ready to partake in whatever was necessary to honor Him. I assume you are probably the same way!

And from the beginning of my faith journey, my pastor and Christian peers harped on Matthew 28:19-20 and the importance of sharing my faith with my friends. That the hope I have in God is not meant to be kept for myself but dispersed out to anyone who would listen.

I was down for that. Honestly, I was pumped about the whole idea. I wanted all my friends to go to Heaven and have a real relationship with God. I was more than ready to share my faith.

Yet, before I began, I wondered: How do I share my faith with my friends? Many people in this world have passion, they just lack the plan to accomplish the mission before them.

Today, I am assuming you have the passion to make Jesus famous in your friend group and eventually across the world. At least you should, because as Christians, we have been commanded to do so (Matt. 28:19-20).

Today, I want to combine that passion with a plan. So, provided are some practical tips on sharing your faith with your friends:

**1. Live a God-honoring life.** St. Francis once said: "Share the gospel at all times, when necessary, use words." Even though you should always be ready to use words, the quote does contain some valuable truth. Sometimes the best way to share your faith is to live it out.

Be aware of others observing you and live accordingly. Not to make them happy, but to honor God. Eventually, your friends will take notice and ask questions.

**2. Invite your friends to church.** Churches nowadays are built to accommodate people bringing their non - believing friends to the services. For our ministry specifically, we highly encourage it. We do a gospel presentation every week in hopes that someone there comes to know Christ as their savior.

Also, it provides a little taste test for a friend who is searching and trying to figure out this whole faith thing. The more Christian influence you surround them with the more likely they will embrace God's grace for them.

**3. Pray for them.** This really should be at the top of the list because prayer is the difference between what we can do and what God can do. Praying for your friends to know God should be a top priority. Make it a daily practice and you will be amazed at what God does in their lives.

Practically speaking, prayer creates compassion. It is why Jesus tells us to pray for our enemies. Praying for someone long enough will lead to us caring for that person.

**4. Love your friends well.** People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. That is a fact of life. If your friends don't feel like you truly care about them as an individual, good luck witnessing to them. Be a good friend and love your crew well.

**5. When having conversations about Christ, ask good questions and let them speak.** Good questions are superior to great statements in conversations, especially evangelistic ones. Operate as an interviewer, not a know-it-all. You want to hear their concerns and questions. Do not inundate them with information, even if you're excited to share it.

In conversation, two phrases should be your best friend: "Why do you say that?" and "What do you mean by that?" And then, \*listen to them\*.

Save your sermons, just hear them out and speak to their concerns. Don't give them a blanket gospel presentation.

Think about it: we are asking this person to give their LIFE to Christ. That is the biggest commitment they will ever make. Take your time.

**6. Leverage your testimony and share that.** Don't try to be a theologian. My opinion in gospel presentations is not to use a ton of scripture. If you do, John 3:16 is a great place to go. But I believe your friends, at first, care less about bible stories and care more about your story.

I have heard it said that you may be the only bible book your friends ever read. That is true in many cases.

Now, don't hear me wrong: I love God's Word. We should study it daily and know it well. But, when it comes to unbelievers, they do not care much about what the bible says. They care about you and God's impact on your life. Tell them about that.

In sum, these tips are not exhaustive. But they act as a great starting place for you to impact your friends for the glory of God. Let's do this!

WHAT NOW?

# WHAT NOW?

READ ON: MATTHEW 28:16-20

REFLECT: WHAT FRIENDS DO I NEED TO  
SHARE CHRIST WITH?



# CONCLUSION

As a reminder, committing your life to Christ is the best decision you will ever make. While the second-best decision is living your life to glorify and honor Him. The fact that you have made it to the end of this devotional is evidence that you desire to do just that.

I am so proud of you.

As a pastor, there is no greater joy for me than to help others follow God and live the life they were created to live. My prayer is that this resource did that for you.

Even at the end of this book, you may ironically be asking, "What now?" Well, at this point, you have figured out I am a big fan of lists. So, here are some things you can do next:

**Share your faith with a friend and share this book with them.** Hopefully, it helps them as it helped you!

**Don't let this book be just a quick read,** but allow it to be a valuable resource you come back to when you need clarity on something.

Continue to fill your mind with Christian content. Doing so will keep you focused on Christ.

Practicing those things will set you on the right path.

I am pumped for what God is going to do through you.