



**Now That
You've
Received
Christ**

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Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International

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FGBMFI Belgium VZW

Tresoriersstraat 6 8980 Zonnebeke

Ondernemingsnummer 0804.635.883

RPR Gent, afdeling leper

Website : www.fgbmfi.be

E-mail : info@fgbmfi.be



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Welcome to the Family

Congratulations!

By receiving Jesus Christ as your Saviour, you have just begun the most exciting adventure of your life. The purpose of this pamphlet is to help you begin that adventure in Christ on solid footing. So settle into your chair, ask God to help you understand the words you are about to read, and then let the words and the scriptures written here help you start the **exciting journey** of your new life in Christ.

What exactly has happened to you? Put simply, **you have become a child of God**, a part of God's spiritual family who receive eternal life with Him in Heaven.

But how did all that happen? First of all, the Bible tells us that all men, because of sin, are separated from God, who is holy and righteous. The Apostle Paul wrote, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23. All scriptures quoted in this book are from the Revised Standard Version). Therefore man,

having sinned, is cut off from God, having no hope of eternal life.

But God, in His great mercy and love, sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, into this world that man might be saved from his sins through Jesus. The Apostle John tells us, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

It is through Jesus' death on the Cross, by the shedding of His blood, that you have been redeemed from your sins (see Matthew 26:28, Ephesians 1:7 and I John 1:7). This salvation is not automatic to all men, but comes **only** when people such as you have repented of their sins and have asked Jesus Christ to come into their hearts. Again we read the words of John: "But to all who received him (Jesus Christ), who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God" (John 1:12).

The two key words here are **believed** and **received**. **Believe** refers to the acknowledgment that Jesus truly is the Son of God and one's Saviour (see Romans 10:9-10). And **receive** implies a willingness to follow Jesus in all that the Bible tells us to do and be (John 14:21).

You have, by receiving Christ, removed the penalty of sin from your life, which is spiritual death in hell. You no longer come into the judgment of God as all unbelievers must but, as Jesus said, you have "passed from death to life". (John 5:24).

God no longer even sees you as a sinner. Paul says, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). Your sins have not only been forgiven, but God

no longer remembers that you have even committed them (Hebrews 8:12).

So welcome to the family of God. Welcome to the blessings that God gives His children, to the spiritual riches which are in Christ Jesus.

You may want to stop here and let these scriptures sink deeper into your mind as you study them from your Bible. But if you do, be sure to finish this pamphlet as soon as possible. For God has a vital message to you as a new Christian. There are 4 things He wants you to **know**, 4 things He wants you to **do**, and 4 things He wants you to **have**. Without these things you will not properly grow in your new life in Christ, but with them God's blessings will forever be with you.

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4 Things God Wants You to Know.

Now that you've received Christ there are four basic things God wants you to know, not only with the intellect, but with your heart and soul: (1) **God loves you.** (2) **You are a new person.** (3) **You can live victoriously.** (4) **God is with you each moment of your life.** These are basic principles of the Christian experience which should become an innate part of your new life. They are vital to a life of joy and blessing in Christ.



**God loves
you.**

No matter what turn your life might take, don't ever forget that **God really loves you.** Many people feel unloved and unwanted, and man can be cold and uncaring. But God loves all men from the most despicable sinner to the purest Christian. He has demonstrated that

love by sending His only Son to die for our sins. Remember John 3:16 from the first chapter? The Apostle Paul also writes, “God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

Why would God send His only Son to die a cruel death for wicked men? **Just because He loves us and wants us in Heaven with Him.** Paul, himself once a sinner, illustrates God's love in Titus 3:3-7, “For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by men and hating one another; but when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.”

Is there anything we have done to earn God's love? No! Is there anything we have done to earn salvation? No! **It is only because of God's great love for us and by His grace that we can have salvation through Jesus Christ.**

Don't ever think that God does not love you. His love is steady and sure. Paul says in Romans 8:38-39

that **nothing** can ever separate us from God's love.

God loves you! Think about it!

And because He does He has saved you and called you to a life of blessing in Christ. Salvation is the first gift you have received from God, but the treasures of His love will bring more gifts to you, both spiritual and material, time and time again.

So believe it! Act upon it! Experience it! Thank God for it! He loves you!



You are a new person.

Believe it or not, **you are a brand new person.** Through Jesus Christ you have experienced a spiritual birth. Jesus talked about this new birth in the 3rd Chapter of John, saying that it was necessary for a man to be “born again” in order to enter the kingdom of God. And that is exactly what happens when a person receives Jesus as his Saviour. Paul writes, “Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come” (II Corinthians 5:17).

What exactly happens when a person experiences a new birth through Christ? Again, we look at the words of Paul. “We know that

our **old self** was crucified with him (Christ) so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin” (Romans 6:6). The nature of man is sinful, and before you received Christ you could not help but sin. It doesn't matter whether you were a “big” sinner or a “little” sinner, your nature was bent toward sin. But when Jesus was crucified He nailed your old sinful nature to the Cross.

In Christ, therefore, you are a new person. **You have now taken on the nature of Christ Himself.** Paul says, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20). Jesus Christ is now living in you. **He is your new nature!**

That means you now have a desire for righteousness instead of sin. You now have a desire to serve God instead of yourself. You now have a real grasp of what life is all about—living for the purpose God created you. You have been renewed. **You are a brand new person.**



You can live victoriously.

Because you are a new person, you are now able to conquer every habit of sin. (NOTE: Turn to I Corinthians 6:9-11 and Galatians 5:16-21 to see what sin is.) This is not to say that you will never sin. In fact, John says that any Christian who says he **never** sins is simply not telling the truth (study 1 John 1:8-9). Note that John also points out the willingness of God to quickly forgive our sins when we are truly repentant.

But God wants us to eliminate our habits of sin. And because Jesus Christ nailed our old sinful natures to the Cross, we can, through Christ and only through Christ, live victoriously above sin.

How does one go about that? Paul says that you must first “consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus” (Romans 6:11). That means you first have to believe that Jesus really did crucify your sinful nature and that He really does live within you.

Then Paul tells us not to yield ourselves to sin, but to **yield ourselves to God.** Dedicate your life to the Lord. Give your spirit, your mind, and your body to God. Devote yourself to serving Him. Paul says that if you do that, sin will have no

power over you (read Romans 6:12-14 and also Ephesians 4:22-24).

So stand up in the power you have in Christ. Yield yourself to Him, and you will not be overcome by sin.

“The return you get,” Paul says, “is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:22-23).

God is with you each moment of your life.



At times it will seem as though God is a million miles away. But He's not. Jesus said He would never leave us nor forsake us (Matthew 28:20). Furthermore, He said, “If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him,

Now that you've studied the four things God wants you to know, let's review them: (1) God loves you. (2) You are a new person. (3) You can live victoriously. (4) God is with you each moment of your life. As you incorporate these basic principles into your life, you are well on your way to becoming a mature and happy Christian.

and we will come to him and make our home with him” (John 14:23).

God is always with us. He is faithful. You may slip and fail Him from time to time, but He will still be faithful to you. Many scriptures attest to God's faithfulness (read Psalms 23:4, I Corinthians 1:9, I Thessalonians 5:23-24, and II Thessalonians 3:3). Perhaps the classic statement on God's faithfulness to us is found in Deuteronomy 7:9. God said. “Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

No matter what you may feel like, God is present with you at all times, for He is faithful. **Trust Him. Acknowledge His presence. You can depend upon Him.**

4 Things God Wants You to Do.

Christianity is first of all **being**. Some people have the mistaken notion that if they do enough good deeds God will consider them Christians. In actuality that is not true. Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us that we are not saved by works, but by **faith in Christ**. Paul goes on to say that because we have been transformed, we will by virtue of our new natures perform good works. So doing good deeds **follows being**.

But in this chapter the “doing” focuses not on good deeds, but actions which will help you grow as a Christian so that you will live a Godly life. (1) **Study your Bible**. (2) **Pray**. (3) **Fellowship with Christians**. (4) **Witness for Christ**. Each one of these four things God wants you to do is essential to healthy growth as a new person in Christ.



Study your Bible.

The Bible is the Word of God, and the Word of God is a very important source of spiritual food. The Apostle Peter, instructing new Christians such as yourself, said, “Like newborn babes, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation” (I Peter 2:2). The Bible is spiritual milk, and spiritual growth generally occurs in **direct relationship to Bible study**.

How does one begin to study the Bible? First of all, if you do not already have a good Bible, invest in one. You will soon treasure it as your most valuable possession. There are many versions to choose from, but it is important that you begin Bible study with a modern edition such as the Revised Standard Version, the New American Standard Bible or the Amplified Bible. They are much easier to understand than the King James, and all represent vast improvements on older versions.

Once you have a good Bible, you will notice that it is divided into Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament was written before the time of Christ and relates God's dealings with the Israelites and mankind in general from the day of Creation. The New Testament contains books on the life of Jesus

and letters from various apostles of the first century, most of which were written to new Christians throughout the Mediterranean and Asian areas of the world.

Inasmuch as we are living in the New Testament age, the place for you to begin to study is there, and not in the Old Testament. A good book to start with is the Gospel of Mark, which is a terse narrative on the life of Jesus. From there go on to I Corinthians and I John, two of the most exciting letters on practical Christianity.

How much should you read at one time? That depends on you. The emphasis is on Bible **study**, not just reading. Paul tells us to understand the Word (II Timothy 2:15), and so it is important that you digest the words of the Bible and not simply read them.

Therefore, how much you read at any one time is up to you. A good rule of thumb is to read **at least** a chapter or two per day. Your own reading habits may indicate more or less. But however much you read at one sitting, get into the habit of studying the Bible each day. **There is no better way to mature as a Christian.** The application of God's Word to your life will soon amaze you with the power and love of our wonderful God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.



Pray.

Prayer is communication with God. Just as we need to communicate with family, friends, and business associates to foster healthy relationships, we also need to communicate with God to build a strong relationship with Him.

What is the nature of prayer? Some people think prayer is just asking God for things we want. But it is more than that. Paul gives us a perfect illustration of the nature of prayer in Philippians 4:6. He says, “Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

Prayer is not only petition, that is, asking God for what we need, but it is also **worship**. It is a time of thanksgiving, when we express our appreciation to God for all He has done for us. We enjoy saying “thank you” to someone who has done something for us. Likewise, when we thank God for His blessings the very act of giving thanks precipitates a release of joy in our hearts. And just as we like hearing “thank you” from others, so does God appreciate His children thanking and praising Him.

Try it right now. Take a moment and thank God for the salvation He

has given you from your sins through Jesus Christ. **You will experience a joy that is distinctive of the Christian life.**

There is also **power** in prayer. James 5:16 says, “The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects.” From cover to cover the Bible is laced with stories of great achievements by mortal men who through prayer trusted God. Your life can tell the same story.

How often should you pray? Paul says simply, “Pray constantly” (I Thessalonians 5:17). In other words, it is your privilege to talk to God **whenever and wherever**. You do not have to be in church to pray. Nor should you wait until an emergency arises to pray. Rather, it is a good idea not only to communicate with God throughout the day, but also to set aside a designated time period each day for prayer.

So get in the habit of talking to God. Pray for your own needs and for others. Praise God for His goodness and love and mercy. **Prayer makes a difference even in the life of the most mature Christian.** It will make a difference in yours. As you experience answered prayer you will grow into a solid, dynamic person for Jesus Christ.



Fellowship with Christians.

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International is an arm of the life of the church. It supports the local pastors and their efforts to witness to the community of the Lord Jesus Christ. Many people find that attending a local chapter of FGBMFI is spiritually uplifting because of the fellowship and interaction of fellow believers. We encourage you to participate.

Regular church attendance is very important, especially for a new Christian. You will need the fellowship and encouragement of other Christians as you grow in Christ. That is why the book of Hebrews tells us. "let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Much of the help you will receive in your Christian walk will come from Christian friends. Paul writes that we are to bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2), and often God chooses to minister to us through the love and prayers of fellow Christians.

So it is **very important** that you establish a habit of church

attendance. We cannot choose a church for you—only God can do that. But it should be a church where there is love and concern, and where the Bible is faithfully taught as the Word of God.

If you are not yet acquainted with a church in your neighborhood, first ask God to help you find one and then investigate several for yourself until you locate a place where you feel at home. **And then watch how much God will bless you as you pray, sing praises to Him, and fellowship with other people who have found the joy of knowing Christ as Saviour and Lord.**



Witness for Christ.

To be a witness for Christ simply means to tell others what Jesus has done for you. In the Gospel of John there was a man named Andrew whom Jesus called to be one of His twelve Apostles. The first thing Andrew did after heeding the call of Jesus was to go tell his brother, Simon Peter, that he had found the Messiah the Jews had been looking for (John 1:40-42). Peter also became one of Jesus' Apostles.

A witness is one who testifies or gives evidence to that which he has seen or experienced. You can witness to others by both your words and your deeds. Sometimes the

greatest witness is by **deed**. One who has received Christ and become a changed person is a dynamic witness to his friends.

But God also wants us to witness with our tongues. Think about someone you can share your experience with, someone who does not know Jesus. It might be a friend or a relative, perhaps someone in your immediate family. Ask God to help you witness to that person. **He will!**

Obviously, witnessing about Jesus is a benefit to those who have been witnessed to. Had not someone

witnessed to you about Jesus you would not be a Christian today.

But there is another benefit of witnessing. You receive a spiritual blessing just from sharing Jesus Christ with another person. The person may not even accept Jesus as you did. In fact, you will run into some people who will **laugh at you for believing in Jesus**. But witnessing is a spiritual experience that brings joy and strength to the inner being of a Christian. **Try it!** You will be surprised how it will strengthen your faith and determination to follow Christ.

So there you have it, four things God wants you to do. Let's review them again: (1) Study your Bible. (2) Pray. (3) Fellowship with Christians. (4) Witness for Christ. All are valuable and necessary for Christian growth. If you haven't started **doing**, get started today, and you will be thrilled at how the **doing** of these four things will add greatly to your **being**.

4 Things God Wants You to Have.

God not only wants you to **know** and to **do**, but also to **have**.

Christianity is **being** and **doing**, but it is also **having**. There are many things we can have in Christ, but basically there are four precious things God wants to give us.

- (1) **Peace.**
- (2) **The Baptism in the Holy Spirit.**
- (3) **A better life.**
- (4) **Heaven.**



Peace.

The only way a person can ever have peace in his soul is through Christ. In scripture God is often referred to as the “God of peace,” and the very reason Jesus came was

to bring peace to mankind
(Acts 10:36).

The kind of peace God wants you to have most of all is a spiritual peace, peace of the soul. Paul says, “Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1). Paul is talking about the peace one has from knowing that his sins are forgiven. You see, you no longer stand in the judgment of God, for Christ has already made atonement for your sins.

So rest in God's peace. It is yours today by your faith in Christ.

Not only does Jesus give us peace about the destiny of our souls, but He also gives us peace in temporal situations. In John 14:27 He said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” And in John 16:33 He adds, “in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

Though the storms of life may be raging about you, you can have peace knowing that God is with you and that He will help you. It is a peace that comes through prayer by the grace of God, and it is a peace you can find only in Christ. Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians are words to remember: “Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways” (II Thessalonians 3:16).

When you are perplexed over life's trying circumstances, stop and study Philippians 4:4-7. Then pray and God will give you a peace in your heart and mind that will strengthen you and see you through.

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit.



You first received the Holy Spirit in your life the moment you accepted Christ as your Saviour. But there is yet another experience of the Holy Spirit which is distinct from salvation, and it is referred to in scripture as the **Baptism in the Holy Spirit** (see Mark 1:8, Acts 1:4-5, and Acts 11:16).

Baptism literally means “immersion,” and so when one is baptized in the Holy Spirit he is literally immersed in the power and presence of the Spirit. In this experience the Holy Spirit actually indwells a person. Many times it is said of people in the scriptures that they are “filled” with the Spirit.

Basically, this experience is for power that we might be witnesses of Christ both in word and in deed. In Acts 1:8 Jesus told His Apostles they would receive power to be His witnesses when they were baptized with the Holy Spirit (study verses 1 to 8). In I Corinthians 12 Paul gives

us a list of spiritual gifts which are given by the Holy Spirit to Christians who have received this infilling. These gifts are given to help us witness to non-Christians, and to minister to our fellow Christians.

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is given not only so that we might minister to others, but that God might minister to us as well. When one is filled with the Spirit he has more power to serve God, a greater joy and love for Christ, and a deeper prayer life. Every Christian needs to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

How can you receive this blessed experience? It can be received simply by praying and asking God for it (study Luke 11:9-13). However, in the days of the early church it was generally received through the prayers of others who had already received the experience. Talk to someone in your local chapter of the Full Gospel Business Men. Ask him to explain more fully the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and also to pray for you that you might receive it.

Don't delay. This experience is for you. It will help you be a stronger Christian and make you a powerful witness for Christ.



A better life.

Some people believe that Christianity is a **drab**, depressing life

of hardship and deprivation. Actually, Christianity is just the opposite—it is an exciting life, a better life than any non-Christian can have. That is not to say that God will make you a millionaire (although He has done just that for some Christians!). But God has promised you a life of blessing.

First of all, there are spiritual blessings. Your life is now one of peace and one that is free from the enslaving power of sin. You will receive great satisfaction not only in your mind but also in your spirit by serving Christ.

Secondly, Christianity is a life of physical blessings. Sin often shows its ravaging effects in our bodies, but one who is free from sin is a healthier person. But over and above that, we have a God who delights in healing our sick bodies. Untold thousands have been healed through prayer—not by man's doing, but by the mercy and power of God.

Third, God does want to bless us materially. One who desires to serve Christ will find that material “things” are not that important any more, but God has promised to supply all our needs when we seek His kingdom and give ourselves to Him (see Matthew 6:31-33 and Philippians 4:19).



Heaven.

The grand climax of the Christian experience is spending eternity in the presence of God and in the riches and treasures of His kingdom. Paul says, “No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him” (I Corinthians 2:9).

What exactly is Heaven like? God gives us only a glimpse into Heaven. In Revelation the Apostle John was given a vision of Heaven. And he says that he heard a voice, which said of Heaven, “Behold, the

What a precious and loving God we have, who delights in **giving**. Let's review again the things He wants us to have: (1) Peace. (2) The Baptism in the Holy Spirit. (3) A better life. (4) Heaven.

Don't miss a thing God has for you. Be everything He wants you to **be**, and do everything He wants you to **do**. And in the **being** and **doing** you shall **have** all that He wants to give you.

Aren't you glad that you made the decision to receive Christ as your Saviour? God has an exciting life for you in the days ahead. You will be eternally grateful that God sent Jesus Christ to die for your sins and that you decided to receive Him and serve Him.

So again, welcome to the family of God. And may, as the Apostle Paul prays, “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you” (II Corinthians 13:14).

dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:1-4).
How different than life on this earth!

Furthermore, Heaven is described as a paradise with streets of gold. Whether that is literal or not we cannot be sure, but Heaven is unlike anything man now knows. Heaven is with God. Heaven is the end of sorrow and suffering. Heaven is experiencing the joys and riches of God forever.

And God wants you to be there!

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP...

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International was founded in 1952 by Demos Shakarian to reach men for Jesus. One year later, God gave him a vision of the people of every continent, revealing that the ministry of the Fellowship would result in people everywhere being brought to Jesus and linked in loving community. That vision is becoming a reality through the Fellowship's ministries, now touching 106 nations and transcending denominational, racial and cultural barriers.



**FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S
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