



A HEALED READER RESOURCE

CONTINUE THE JOURNEY

GROWING IN GOD YOUR NEXT STEPS

FIVE WAYS TO KEEP WALKING WITH JESUS

*Being confident of this very thing, that He
who has begun a good work in you will
complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.
Philippians 1:6*

KATHY DUFFY

Keep walking with Jesus.

Keep Following Jesus

Jesus had many disciples who followed Him. They listened to His teaching, watched His miracles, and walked with Him from place to place.

But one day, Jesus shared some things that were difficult for them to hear. Some became offended. And the Bible says that from that time, many of His disciples turned back and walked with Him no more (John 6:66).

Jesus then turned to the twelve and asked if they would leave too.

“Lord, to whom shall we go?
You alone have the words of eternal life.”

- John 6:68

Peter understood something important. Following Jesus would not always mean understanding everything immediately. There would be things to learn, things to surrender, and times when faith would require a response.

But where else would he go? He had found Jesus.

And once you have found Him, the greatest journey of your life is walking with Him.

That is what these next steps are about. They are not a formula or a checklist for becoming a “good Christian.” They are simple ways to help you grow in your relationship with Jesus - to know His Word, hear His voice, walk with His people, live a life that pleases Him, and share what He has done for you.

Wherever you are on your journey, keep following Jesus.

There is so much more ahead.



THE JOURNEY

FIVE SIMPLE WAYS TO GROW IN GOD

Keep walking with Jesus - one step at a time.

1

LIVE TO PLEASE JESUS

2

PUT THE WORD FIRST

3

DEVELOP A DAILY PRAYER LIFE

4

GET CONNECTED TO A LOCAL CHURCH

5

SHARE YOUR STORY

*These steps are not about perfection. They are
about learning to walk with Jesus - one
faithful step at a time.*

There is so much more ahead.

LIVE TO PLEASE JESUS

You belong to Jesus.

When you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you received His free gift of salvation. He washed your sins away and gave you a new heart. You are a new person on the inside, and Jesus now lives in you.

You belong to Jesus.

He loves you, He has a plan for your life, and He wants His very best for you. His desire is for you to walk in freedom and live a life that pleases Him.

One way you do that is by removing the things in your life that displease Him. The Bible calls those things sin. Sin is simply doing anything Jesus would not do.

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you anything in your life that does not honor the Lord - anything that feeds your old life rather than the new life He has given you. And when He shows you something, be willing to let it go.

When you received Jesus, you broke up with the devil. Now you belong to Jesus. So give the devil back his articles of affection - anything that ties you to a past the Lord has set you free from.

But here is the incredible thing: this is not simply about giving things up. It is about making room for everything God has for you.



A Love Relationship

As you walk with Jesus, your desires begin to change. He has changed your heart, and He is doing an amazing work inside you. You want to please Him because you love Him. It is all about relationship.

As you take steps of obedience, He will help you. You do your part and trust Him to do His. By His Holy Spirit, He will empower you to live a life that pleases Him. Jesus never condemns you. He loves you. If you do sin, do not run from Jesus. Run to Him. Confess your sin, receive His forgiveness, and let His blood wash and cleanse you (1 John 1:9).

The devil may try to bring up your past, point to your imperfections, or even tell you that you are not really saved. Do not believe him.

My friend, your salvation is not based on your feelings, your imperfections, or your good works. Your salvation rests on what Jesus has done for you. He shed His blood for you. When you received Jesus, received His forgiveness, and confessed Him as your Lord and Savior, you were born again.

You do not become a Christian by striving, nor do you live the Christian life in your own strength. When you receive Jesus, you are born again. You become a new creation in Christ (John 3:3; 2 Cor 5:17).

Jesus now lives inside of you, and by His Holy Spirit, He empowers you to live the Christian life. As you continue to walk with Him - believing His Word, obeying what He shows you, and yielding to the Holy Spirit - He will transform your life from the inside out.

So follow Him. Keep saying yes to Him. And you will be amazed at what He does in your life.

Remember - it is all about relationship.

A love relationship.

2 PUT THE WORD FIRST

God speaks through His Word.

The Bible is God speaking to you. It is your spiritual food. His Word causes you to grow spiritually (1 Pet 2:2). Jesus said His words are “spirit” and “life” (John 6:3), and the Bible tells us that the Word of God is alive and active (Heb 4:12).

As you spend time in His Word, it will transform the way you think, influence the decisions you make, and change your life. His Word is a lamp to your feet and a light to your path (Ps 119:105). Through His Word and by the Holy Spirit, God will guide you.

Make it a priority to read the Bible every day. Ask the Lord to help you understand what you read and show you how to apply it to your life. Do not get discouraged when you come across passages you do not understand right away. Just keep reading.

How much should you read? There is no formula. Some days, a few verses may seem to come alive to you. That is the Holy Spirit drawing your attention to His Word. Stay there for a while. Read those verses again. Think about them. Let the Lord speak to your heart through them.

Other days, you may find yourself reading several chapters - or even an entire book of the Bible. The important thing is to keep feeding on God’s Word every day.

A wonderful place to begin is the Gospel of John. Get to know Jesus. Then continue reading through the New Testament.



THE WORD IS ALIVE.
READ IT. BELIEVE IT. LIVE IT.

FEED ON HIS WORD DAILY

Think about it: if you ate only one meal a week, you would become physically malnourished. In the same way, if the only time you feed on God's Word is during a sermon once a week, you will become spiritually malnourished. You need His Word every day.

And here is something else to discover: God did not make physical food merely necessary - He made it enjoyable. He gave us taste buds and an incredible variety of foods to nourish and satisfy us.

Spiritually, it is much the same. As you make God's Word a priority, you will discover that reading the Bible is not simply something you are supposed to do. You will begin to hunger for it and enjoy receiving spiritual food from God Himself.

“Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good.”

Ps 34:8

As you feed on God's Word, your faith will grow and your mind will be renewed. And something wonderful will happen: you will begin to recognize God speaking to your heart through His Word.

When God says something in His Word, believe Him. Take Him at His Word. Then act on what He shows you. God's Word is not merely something we read - it is something we live.

As you give God's Word first place and make it the final authority in your life, you will build your life on a foundation that cannot be shaken.

Open His Word. Listen to His voice.

Believe what He says.

And keep walking with Jesus.

DEVELOP A DAILY PRAYER LIFE

Talk with Him, Listen to Him.



Prayer is simply talking with the Lord as your Best Friend - because that is exactly who He is.

Prioritize time every day to talk with Him. Share your heart. Talk to Him about your needs and pray for the needs of others. Invite Him into every area of your life.

And remember: prayer is not just talking. It is also listening.

Learn to listen for His voice in your heart. He wants to speak to you - to give you direction, wisdom, and peace; to reveal His love to you; and so much more. Let God's Word guide your prayers because His Word reveals His will. Pray to the Father in the name of Jesus.

But your prayer life doesn't end when your dedicated prayer time is over. Talk with Him throughout your day. Talk with Him while you are driving, shopping, working, cleaning the house, or simply going about your day. Jesus goes with you everywhere you go, and He cares about everything happening in your life.

Ask Him for wisdom. Share what is on your heart. Tell Him you love Him. And learn to listen as He shares His heart with you.

One of my favorite ways to pray is to pray God's Word back to Him. For instance, when I am facing adversity, I might take the truth of Psalm 46 and pray, "*Lord, You are my Refuge, my Strength, my Deliverer...*"

Think about how amazing this is: the Creator of the universe loves YOU. He is your Heavenly Father. He lives in you by His Holy Spirit, and through Jesus He has made the way for you to have a heart-to-heart relationship with Him.

His heart is always open.

He is never too busy.

He is always listening.

He is always there for you.

What an awesome privilege it is to come to Him and know that He receives you - every time.

Talk with Him. Listen to Him. Share your life with Him.

And keep walking with Jesus.

GET CONNECTED TO A LOCAL CHURCH

You were never meant to walk alone.

You were never meant to walk this journey alone. The local church is God's family for you.

God established the local church so believers could come together as family - to grow in Christ, build relationships, encourage one another, and learn to love and serve one another. The Bible tells us not to neglect gathering together with other believers (Heb 10:25), and that God has given pastors and other ministry gifts to help his people grow and mature in Christ (Eph 4:11-13).

Prayerfully ask the Lord to lead you to the right home church and pastor. Then get connected. Attend regularly. Take notes during the teaching. Get to know people. Become involved. Look for opportunities to serve and be a blessing to others.

And here is something important to understand about church life: no church is perfect, and no pastor is perfect. Why? Because churches are filled with people - and every one of us is still growing in Christ.

There may be times when someone disappoints you, hurts your feelings, or things do not happen the way you think they should. Determine now that you will not allow the imperfections that sometimes arise in God's family to separate you from God's family.

In other words, do not quit going to church.

Stay connected to the Body of Christ through the local church. Love people. Forgive quickly. Keep growing. And allow others to walk alongside you as you continue your journey with Jesus.

The Bible says that those who are planted in the house of the Lord will flourish (Ps 92:13).

Get planted. Stay connected. Keep walking with Jesus.
And watch what God does in your life.



SHARE YOUR STORY

Tell someone what Jesus has done.

What has Jesus done for you?

What is your story?

Maybe you are a brand-new Christian. You may not know a single Bible verse yet. Maybe you have never even been to church, and much of this still feels unfamiliar to you.

But you know something happened when you received Jesus.

Maybe His love and peace flooded your heart, and now everything is different. You may not be able to explain everything that happened, but you can tell someone what you do know:

God is real.

He loves me.

Jesus has forgiven me.

And He has changed my life.

That is your testimony!

Has God been good to you? Has He revealed Himself to you? Has He saved you, healed you, delivered you, set you free, or changed your heart?

What Jesus has done for you,

He wants to do through you.

You do not have to know everything about the Bible before you can tell someone about Jesus. You do not have to have all the answers. Simply share what He has done in your life.

Let your love for Jesus move you to reach others. Ask God for divine appointments, and then be ready when He gives them to you. Your story may be exactly what someone needs to hear to open their heart to Jesus.

CONTINUE THE JOURNEY

**You are on the most remarkable
and exciting journey of all - the
journey of knowing and walking
with God.**



This is why you were created:

To know Him.

To walk with Him.

And to make Him known.



There is always more to discover - more of His Word to know,
more conversations to have with Him, more of His love to
experience, more ways to serve Him, and more people who need
to know the Jesus you have come to know.

Jesus loves you and has a plan for your life. As you keep walking
with Him, He will lead you step by step, reveal His purpose more
clearly, and use your life in beautiful ways for His glory.

So keep pursuing Him.

Keep growing.

Keep saying yes to Jesus.

KEEP WALKING WITH JESUS

