

7.4 What are some STEPS TO CHRISTIAN GROWTH for new believers in Christ ?

After a student has trusted Christ as Savior, he or she can be compared with a newborn baby. Indeed, the new Christian IS a newborn baby in God's family. Just as a baby is weak and limited and dependent, the new Christian is also, in a spiritual sense. Just as a baby grows slowly, learns and develops skills over time, so the new believer has much to learn and many ungodly habits to change. We can help new believers by gradually, slowly, giving them tiny, bite-sized pieces of teaching. This can be done by adding a small special section to your lesson each week, but meeting with a few of them at another time during the week, or by meeting with them privately in their homes with these bits of teaching. We suggest one (sometimes two, if they are related) topics per week.

Read the Bible verses with them, ask questions to help them understand and digest what the verses say, challenge them to obedience and growth in this area, and pray with them about each issue. It is also wise to ask about their progress in areas you have already learned about.

Here are some suggested topics. After the first two, they can be taken in any order, depending on the needs in the life of the students:

1. **SALVATION**—Understand thoroughly what you did when you invited Jesus into your life.
John 5:24
2 Corinthians 5:17
2. **ASSURANCE**—Be assured of your salvation on the basis of what God's Word says.
1 John 5:13
3. **PRAYER**—Pray to God every day. Ask for His help and guidance. Seek help from God alone, not from other holy people, ancestors, spirits, angels, or saints.
Philippians 4:6-7
Ephesians 3:12
Luke 4:8
1 Timothy 2:5
4. **THE BIBLE**—Read or listen to the Bible, the Word of God, every day.
Acts 17:11
Matthew 5:19
Luke 4:4
5. **EVERYDAY LIFE**—Do everything in your everyday life with the motive and goal of please Jesus.
2 Corinthians 5:15
1 Corinthians 10:31
6. **WHEN YOU DO WRONG (SIN)**—When you realize you have done something wrong, even what seems like a very small thing, you should understand that this is sin and it does not please Jesus. It breaks your fellowship with Him. Therefore, you should confess your sin to God right away. Ask God for forgiveness. Only He can forgive and restore you.
1 John 1:9
1 John 2:1
Mark 2:7

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7. **BAPTISM**—You should be baptized in water as a sign that shows others you have received new life in Christ.
Romans 6:4
Acts 8:37
8. **THE CHURCH**—You should enter into the fellowship of the church. Which church? You should enter a church that believes and teaches and practices the teachings of the Word of God. If before you were saved you were a member of a religious group that teaches and practices things contrary to the Word of God, you should leave that group and look for a Bible-believing fellowship.
2 Corinthians 6:14-18
Hebrews 10:25
9. **EVIL SPIRITS**—You should refuse and rebuke Satan and all his helpers and his works. Remove all amulets and objects and literature associated with magic, witchcraft, saints, spirits of the ancestors, etc. from your home and your person. Stop every practice that derives its power from spirits other than God. Stop trusting in and seeking help from spirits through divination, oblation, etc. Start trusting in God alone and seeking His help for the problems of life for which you used to use magic.
Acts 19:18-20
1 Corinthians 10:21
10. **FORGIVENESS**—Forgive others who have hurt you and wronged you as Christ forgave you of your sins.
Matthew 6:14-15
11. **LOVE**—Show love to others just as Christ shows love to you.
John 5:12
12. **TELL OTHERS WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE FOR YOU**—Tell others about your decision to follow Christ.
Romans 10:14
13. **SING PRAISES TO GOD**—Sing Christian songs that give honor to Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 5:19
14. **REJOICE AND GIVE THANKS**—Rejoice and give thanks to God for His blessings every day.
Philippians 4:4
Ephesians 5:20
15. **LEARN TO CONTROL YOUR THOUGHTS**—Allow Jesus to rule your thoughts so that the things you think about bring honor to Him.
Philippians 4:8
16. **SERVICE**—Look for ways you can help or serve the church.
1 Corinthians 12:12
17. **OFFERINGS**—Give generous offerings to help your church and to spread the Word of God. Give what you can, including your time, effort, and prayer. If you have no money at all, give your pastor a gift of time and love by doing a service for him. Give him a gift of encouragement by letting him know you appreciate him. Give money when you can.
Acts 20:35

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18. **YOUR MOUTH**—Allow God to rule your mouth in all things. Stop using your mouth to curse God or others, or to run others down. Begin to use your mouth for blessing and doing good.

Ephesians 5:4

19. **MARRIAGE**—Honor marriage, save sex only for marriage, and refuse unfaithfulness in every form.

Hebrews 13:4

Ephesians 5:33

20. **CONTINUE**—Continue (Do not stop) doing each of these things.

John 8:31

No list can list everything. As you continue in God’s Word, His Spirit will continually guide you into all truth.

LET’S REVIEW

How many steps to Christian growth can you remember (in any order)? On these 20 lines, write as many as you can from memory, then check the chapter and fill in the rest.

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LET’S PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Choose three of these topics to use in beginning to help the new Christians in your class. Memorize the verses.

Write them out here from memory, then check in the Bible for accuracy.

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Now think about the application of these ideas in your culture and to your class. What would you tell them about each idea? Ask God for ideas, and write here what He gives you.

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