



FIRST STEPS

HOW TO WALK IN THE
FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

CHUCK SALVO



FIRST STEPS

BY
PASTOR CHUCK SALVO

1 FIRST STEPS

First Steps! That is where I must begin in this book. First steps are taken as a child moves on into their next phase in life. First steps are taken as a child begins a new journey. Literally, everything is about to change. The child doesn't take off running, the child begins with baby steps and as this phase continues the child's muscles begin to strengthen. No one condemns the child for stumbling or even falling. Everyone knows that this is normal. The key to the development of this child is that they get up and try again until walking is no longer something they have to think about but becomes like second nature to them. It's only a matter of time before the child will be able to walk and then run.

There are fundamental steps we take in our first steps in Christ Jesus. As a new believer in faith in Jesus, the Bible compares us to a newborn baby. As newborn babies our God has supplied

everything we need for our new life in Jesus. In this book we will discuss the foundational truths of God's Word that will guide us in our relationship with Jesus.

"Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk, so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation."

1 Peter 2:2

Our growth in God is a serious matter and there are forces of darkness that are not rejoicing over our relationship with Jesus. We have literally been delivered from the kingdom of darkness and the ruler over that kingdom is Satan. Jesus has provided an umbrella of protection, as we now have become children of God. His protection lies within His promises, and the way we put those promises into action is by reading His Word.



*Learning to walk in Jesus is a new adventure.
It is a brand new way of seeing things.*

Learning to walk in Jesus's steps is exciting and as you do this, joy will start to overflow from your very being. You will tend to be happier to be alive, you will wake up and know there is a purpose and plan for your life. You are now a part of God's Kingdom, and this Kingdom has a way of operation. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we become born into this Kingdom. God's Kingdom is based in the Spirit of Love. As we begin learning about this new commitment we've made to Jesus, we will progress through these first steps into our newfound faith in Jesus.

I'M A NEW CREATION



THE OLD ME IS GONE

SINCE I GAVE MY LIFE TO
JESUS, THE BEST CHANGE I
CAN SEE IS...

A series of 15 horizontal white lines for writing, overlaid on a background image of a mountain valley with a lake. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page.

2 FORGIVEN

If you're reading this book, most likely you have taken the first step to salvation, which is repentance. You have changed your mind about sin. You sensed an inner conviction through your conscience about your relationship with God and knew through that conviction that you had fallen short of God's standard. In other words, you knew you needed forgiveness because your life was something God could not be pleased with.

GOD'S WORD SAYS

"There is no one good"
Romans 3:10

"All have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God"
Romans 3:23

Every human being has violated God's commandments which are His moral standard.

When we do this, we have broken God's laws, and there are consequences to breaking any laws. We have laws against stealing, against murder, etc. Those earthly laws also have consequences attached to them. A person who has broken any of these laws could spend anywhere from 3 months in jail, to a life sentence or even receive the death penalty.

But what happens if a person breaks the laws of God? Does the Bible have anything to say about people who break God's laws?

Absolutely! God is the Judge of the earth. The Bible declares,

“GOD IS THE JUDGE”

PSALM 75:7

**“FOR THE LORD IS OUR JUDGE, THE LORD IS OUR LAWGIVER,
THE LORD IS OUR KING”**

ISAIAH 33:22

So here are just a couple of scriptures that declare that God is a judge. Now if He is a judge then He judges those that break His laws. We all know that every person, including ourselves, in the entire world are sinners and have broken God's laws.

So how does God judge a person who breaks His laws?

Now before I continue I want you to understand I'm going to state the truth of the sin or problem first and then the wonderful solution second. I say that because at first glance you may see absolutely no hope and realize that all humanity is a lost cause. And rightly so, if God is taken out of the equation. But with God, all things are possible. So I urge you to read on!

So back to the question, how does God judge the sinner, the lawbreaker? He judges them based on His Word. His Word says,

“THE PAYMENT FOR SIN IS DEATH.”

ROMANS 6:23

Now God’s Word also says,

“BUT THE SCRIPTURES SAY THAT SIN CONTROLS EVERYONE.”

GALATIANS 3:22

So we see that all of humanity is considered lawbreakers and violators of God’s moral standards, according to God’s Word. This is the true condition of humanity and this condition will ultimately lead to death, which means eternal separation from God, who is life.

Without first understanding the true condition of man how in the world can we understand that we need forgiveness? Many in our culture today have no understanding of God’s moral character, therefore they may say they’re a Christian but there has been no conviction in their own heart of their own personal sin.

A person with no conviction of sin cannot truly understand their need for forgiveness.

If we have no conviction, there can be no transformation.

If there is no transformation, there is no salvation.

If there is no salvation, that person is truly dead in their sins.

YOU WERE DEAD

in your sin, but He made you alive

**"AND YOU HE MADE ALIVE,
WHO WERE DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SINS."**

EPHESIANS 2:1

Once a person puts their faith in Jesus they are made alive. They receive forgiveness of sin and the death sentence over their life has been lifted. Jesus paid the debt for sinners in full. A person must fully understand God's justice against the sinner before they can truly understand what they have been forgiven of. When we see God's holiness we realize our need for forgiveness.

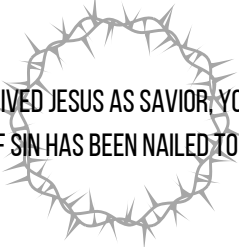
JESUS PAID OUR DEBT OF SIN IN FULL



NOTES

**"IN HIM WE HAVE REDEMPTION
THROUGH HIS BLOOD,
THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS."
EPHESIANS 1:7**

The actual meaning of forgiveness is *pardoned*. To be pardoned in a court of law is to have all debts or all offenses removed from your account. Jesus looked at the woman caught in adultery and told her that her sins were forgiven. The religious leaders who brought the woman to Jesus, attempted to remind Him that the law of God condemned her to death. While it was true that judicial law condemned this woman to death, Jesus said His purpose in the earth was not to condemn but to forgive or pardon. His assignment was to bring salvation to those who would believe.



IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED JESUS AS SAVIOR, YOU ARE FORGIVEN.
THE DEBT OF SIN HAS BEEN NAILED TO THE CROSS.

"HE CANCELED THE RECORD OF THE
CHARGES AGAINST US AND TOOK IT AWAY
BY NAILING IT TO THE CROSS."
COLOSSIANS 2:14

So one of the first steps we take in our salvation is to understand that we are forgiven. God does not hold our past against us. The Son

of God has received our punishment in our place. He suffered and died so we can go free.



"IT IS FOR FREEDOM THAT CHRIST HAS SET US FREE."
GALATIANS 5:1

Sin against God’s moral code has separated mankind from fellowship with God. God wanted it back and took upon Himself the necessary judgment to restore mankind back to Him. Sin has a weight to it. Mankind consistently fills their lives with things of this world that blind them to the truth. Because we have been born into the matrix of sin we are slaves to it. Slavery to sin is a direct violation of moral law, and judicial law declares “GUILTY!” When a person turns to the Savior and sees their need for saving and believes in His work at the cross, they then receive forgiveness. Every sin is now atoned or covered by His blood. The offender is pardoned and will no longer be accountable to pay the debt of their sin. Their sin, by faith, was placed upon Jesus Christ, who paid their debt in full. The offender goes free with complete immunity from their sin.

GLORY!



I'M A NEW CREATION

THE OLD ME IS GONE

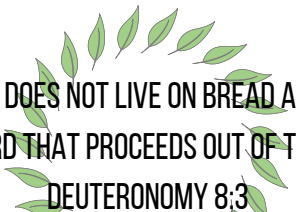
I NEVER WANT TO FORGET
THAT JESUS BROUGHT ME
OUT OF...

3

I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

When a person truly is born again, they feed upon the things of God. Jesus, while communicating with a religious man named Nicodemus, told him that he must be born again in order to enter the kingdom of God. Nicodemus was a man who knew the first five books of the bible inside and out. He committed his life to understanding those books and the prophets, and Jesus told him he needed to be born again.

When a person repents and trusts in Jesus for salvation they are born again. Now just like a newborn baby eats food to receive nourishment, someone who is born again also will need nourishment. A baby eats food of this world and someone who is born of the Spirit will eat spiritual food. If a baby doesn't eat food it will become weak and ultimately die without it. So a saved person who does not nourish themselves spiritually will also become weak.



**"MAN DOES NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE
BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD."
DEUTERONOMY 8:3**

As newborn babies in the kingdom of God our spirit must be fed with spiritual food. That food is bread to the soul. Jesus also said,

“I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE.”

JOHN 6:35

In making this statement Jesus was telling you and I that as newborn babies we need to feed upon spiritual food. That food is life to our souls and Jesus is that food.



1. Through prayer – Daily prayer with God is essential to the spiritual nutrition of the believer. Without it the believer will be weak and the powers of darkness will destroy the believer’s life. Prayer is not just communicating our needs to God but is actually a time of fellowship with God or communion with Him. It is a love affair. I dive deeper into the explanation of developing a person’s prayer life in my book called “Prayer: The Building Block For a Warrior.”

2. It is crucial for the spiritual nourishment of the believer to read God’s Word. His Word is the essence of who He is. When you read it as a believer the Holy Spirit makes it alive to you and it will feed the soul. We eat natural food multiple times a day so we also must eat of God’s Word at least once a day.

“THE WORDS THAT I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU ARE SPIRIT AND THEY ARE LIFE.”

JOHN 6:63

3. In order for a person to maintain a balanced diet in the spirit, we need to be in God’s house every week, preferably multiple times a week. Hebrews 10:5 tells us:

“FORSAKE NOT THE ASSEMBLING OF YOURSELF TOGETHER AS IS THE MANNER OF SOME.”

Being with people that are like minded in God’s Word is so important and will help keep your faith in God growing.



- BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE HELPS HOLD YOU ACCOUNTABLE
- SERVING WITHIN YOUR CHURCH HELPS YOU FINE TUNE YOUR GIFTS & HELPS YOU TO EXPRESS LOVE THROUGH SERVING OTHERS

I've been preaching to people for years that there are three things you should do as you begin to follow God. If you'll do them it is very difficult to fall away. First, pray every day, second, read your Bible every day, and third, go to church every time the doors are open. If you'll do these things you are literally feeding upon Jesus and you will grow.

Now if you treat these three things as a law to get to God you will fail. For instance, there are other religions that do these things such as pray and read and go to their church and they end up down the wrong path. The answer is first being born again and allowing the Spirit to lead you. As you pray to Him, read His Word and fellowship in truth with other likeminded people, you will be victorious.

If you allow distractions into your life, this will take away from the momentum that comes with salvation and applying these three main things to your life. Distractions make weak Christians. If a person has no desire for prayer, the Word, or church, most likely they have never been saved. Anything living has an appetite.

Make a decision to discipline your life in these three areas and you will be on a good healthy diet in Jesus. Always remember none of these things will save you. Jesus' death and resurrection bought the way of salvation completely, we are saved by grace, it is a gift. But when we have truly been saved our desire for God becomes alive and our pursuit of God begins.

I'M A NEW CREATION

THE OLD ME IS GONE

**WHAT AREAS OF MY LIFE NEED
MORE DISCIPLINE? WHAT CAN I DO
TO MAKE SURE I AM ACCOUNTABLE?**

4

NEGATIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Some may feel that this topic should be for a later chapter in this reading but after being a witness of so many aborted spiritual babies because of negative relationships I feel compelled to share on this topic. Many souls have been aborted because of who they hang with. You have heard it said, “You are who you hang with” and that is so true. God’s Word tells us in 1John 5:19

“We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in wickedness.”

When a person comes out of darkness and is born again they become a new creation in Jesus. God calls them into His family. So a person is either in the family of God or they are in the family of the devil. There are two groups of people on the planet. There are people for God, His culture and His ways, or there are people who are not. According to 1John 5:19 we are of God and the whole world outside of God are not of God. Therefore, it stands to reason that if God called you out of something, then the people you used to be in with, need to be brought out just as you were.

Not everyone is going to be ready to leave their way of life so a new believer must be very careful with the relationships that they are involved with. The definition of relationship is “the state of being related or interrelated.” No doubt, there is a connection with the one you are related to. When a person is born again they are brought out of sin and death and brought into life with Jesus. People who choose to stay in a relationship that is interconnected, for instance, living with your boyfriend or girlfriend, or being involved in a sexual immoral relationship, will ultimately end up falling back into the old life of sin that they came out of. Jesus came to free us from the slavery of sin which leads to death and destruction. 1Corinthians 15:33 says,

“Bad company corrupts good character.”

Again, you are who you hang out with. So what about a relationship with a Father or Mother, a sister or brother? When a person gives their life to God everything changes. Their desires, what they like to do, where they like to go etc. Well the people that are related to us, if they are not born again, will think it’s strange that you no longer desire to do the things you used to do with them. They will think it’s strange and could very possibly accuse you for taking your walk with God too far. God knew this would happen and even told you it would.

“They are surprised that you do not join them in the same excess of wild living, and so they speak evil of you. “

1 Peter 4:4

It doesn't mean that we leave our families or stop talking to family, it simply means that the believer must be careful and not allow that way of thinking to influence them. For example, imagine there are two sisters who do everything together and talk about everything with each other. But one of them gets saved and is so excited about what God has done in her life. She goes to tell her sister about it, but her sister is uninterested and not all that excited about the change that has happened in her sister's life. Now before salvation, the sisters would go out drinking every Friday night, talk about all the boys they talked to, etc. Now the sister who got saved says she can no longer go, but the other sister pressures her every week to join her. That's when decisions have to be made in order to walk in obedience to God. The saved sister can tell her sibling that she loves her but she doesn't do that any longer, and ask if she would want to do something different instead, like see a movie, go skating, etc. In some circumstances the relationship may be wounded for a season until the one respects the others decision and stops persecuting her for it.

There are some who upon receiving Jesus as Savior have been involved in a sexual relationship and want to know what they should do. Let's go to the Word of God.

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God/ Do not be deceived, neither the sexually

immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor male prostitutes, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, and you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus by the Spirit of our God.”

1 Corinthians 6:9

So we see here that sexually immoral people will not inherit eternal life. Jesus sets the person free from sin and now that person is to walk after the culture of the kingdom of God. Jesus continues to exhort us to follow His ways rather than our own in 1 Corinthians 6:18-20,

“Escape from sexual immorality. Every sin that a man commits is outside the body. But he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. What? Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God, and that you are not your own? You were bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

So no doubt the relationship where sexual immorality has been prior to salvation is one that will be tested immediately. The devil will use this relationship to cause a person to return back, to his or her own paths.

Condemnation is an attempt from demons to ensnare the believer back into his old ways. Repentance and turning from that sin will mean to sever that relationship and if need be terminate it completely.

If the partner is not interested in living holy and interesting in the Jesus that you have discovered than the partner will end up being used like a puppet in the hands of demons to ensnare the new believer back into a sinful lifestyle. Many new believers have been aborted because they simply loved their life more than God. Look what the Lord told us in Matthew 16:24,

“If anyone will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?”

It is crucial for the new believer to surround themselves with people that are like-minded. They have the same moral standard. If you hang with people and commit yourself to people with standards of the world you will also fall to those standards. God has called the believer to a new standard; it is the kingdom of God. As others see you live in that kingdom you then become a light to a dark world. As they see you begin to live in victory, you then become a light and are declaring that God’s way and culture is the best. Your life should convict people in the darkness that they are in and then you bring them to Jesus, so they too can receive salvation. God has called you to be separate from this world; you and I have been called out of it. What a privilege!

“Come out from among them and be separate”

2 Corinthians 6: 17