

## NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

by Alan Utting

This new life you have entered, promises to be the most worthwhile and meaningful one that you could possibly have, by deciding to live for Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10). Now that you have become a child of God (John 1:12) it is important that you grow in your spiritual relationship with God. This comes about in a number of ways.

As a *child* is expected to obey their earthly father, so we need to obey our heavenly Father. Not because we have to, but because we appreciate all that He has done for us and love Him for that.

By reading His Word the *Bible*, we will become equipped for living the right way and knowing God’s plan for our lives, (2 Timothy 3:16). I suggest that you read a chapter or a portion of John’s gospel daily.

*Prayer* is simply talking to God. Don’t just pray to Him about your big concerns but mention also your small ones too. The Bible says we should always pray with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6).

*Share Christ with others*, tell people what Christ has done for you and what He means to you now.

It’s important that you have *fellowship with Believers* who also love the Lord. As a hot ember of coal or wood cools when separated from the others on the fire, so we may grow cold in our love for the Lord if we don’t mix with other Christians.

Lastly, remember that although Satan may seek to discourage and tempt you, Jesus was also tempted (Matthew 4:4-11) and *triumphed!* He gives us strength through the power of the Holy Spirit.

May God bless you in this new life!



## Living forever

### Study 1

1. What happens when you believe (trust) in Jesus Christ (John 5:24).

Eternal life refers not to just life after death, but spiritual life received from the moment a person believes in Christ. It is not obtained by being extra good, but by simply putting your trust in Jesus and seeking to walk in His ways.

Read John 3:16 and insert your name in the following spaces:

‘For God so loved ..... that He gave His only Son,  
that if ..... Believes in Him ..... Should not  
perish, but ..... will have eternal life’. (Paraphrase)

2. How can you be certain you will never perish? John 10:27-29
3. What else does Jesus promise about the future? John 14:1-3
4. What does Jesus promise if you obey Him? John 14:21

Memorise the four verses at the end of **Study 2** and continue to read the Bible daily, asking God to have His help and guidance each day. You may like to commence reading the Bible from John’s Gospel.

(Scriptures taken from the NIV Bible translation)



# Forgiveness

## Study 2

1. Why did Jesus come into the world? John1:29.
2. What did Pilate say about Jesus? John19:6.
3. Jesus took for us the punishment for our wrong doings (sins) through His death upon the cross. That means the penalty is not held against us. This punishment is removed by faith in what Christ has done. Read about His death in John 19:17-30.
4. In 1 John 1:9 we read, 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness'. To 'confess' means that we admit before God we have done wrong.  
After forgiving us what does God then do?

Matthew 6:14,15 "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins".

5. In this verse what do we have to do to know forgiveness?
6. How can we best forgive others who have wronged us?

As you release others from your unforgiveness you are able to receive the forgiveness from God. Speak out your forgiveness from those who have hurt you and receive and thank God for His forgiveness for you. Don't be surprised if this is a process over a period of time.

Walking through life with Jesus as your Saviour, Lord and friend enriches your relationship with Him. There is always more to learn!



## Verses to learn

<p>Promise of life (John 3:16)</p> <p>‘For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.’</p>	<p>Promise of victory over temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13)</p> <p>‘No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.’</p>
<p>Promise of forgiveness (1 John 1:9)</p> <p>‘If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.’</p>	<p>Promise of His presence (Hebrews 13:5)</p> <p>“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”</p>

‘Growing in Christ’ is a manual which follows on from these studies.