

First Steps

For New Believers



Freddie Coile

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A Note from Freddie Coile

Dear Friend,

The gift of God is eternal life! It is given freely to all who believe in Jesus Christ. Salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone. No strings attached. If you have believed in Christ, welcome to the family of God! I have written this book to help you learn and grow as a new believer. Use your Bible alongside this book to learn and grow in grace. Once the matter of where you will spend eternity is settled, you and God together can plan your next steps toward your future. I hope you have an awesome adventure!

All because of His grace,

Freddie

Be Sure!

Are you sure that you have eternal life?
Look in your Bible at John 3:16 and 17.

What does the Bible say you need to do to have eternal life (*verse 16*)?

God is holy. We are not. But has God condemned us for our sin (*17*)? _____.

Jesus died to pay a death penalty for our sin. The payment is not our good works, church, or promises to do better. The payment is death – and Jesus paid it. Then He rose from the dead. God calls us to believe in Christ. It means to trust or rely on Jesus, who rose from the dead. Have you believed in Him?

“For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God, not of works...” - Ephesians 2:8, 9

Look up 1 John 5:11-13. What can you know that you have if you believe in Christ?

_____.

Crack open your Bible and look at the awesome promise in John 1:12!

What is the promise for everyone who believes in Christ?

If you are God's child, what is God to you? How great is it to have the God-who-sits-at-the-control-panel-of-the-universe to be your.... FATHER!

Bank on this:

God is glad you're in the family. He will never cast you out. He is always with you, everywhere. He will provide your needs, and maybe some wants. He will discipline you if you need it.

All this - because He is *for your best!* If He carried a wallet your picture would be in it. Life is a BLAST for those who learn to enjoy *living* in the Fatherhood of God!

Picture a young man who has a girlfriend; but they never talk. Not good! Relationships are about **communication!**

The Lord has given you the right to pray and a promise to answer prayers according to His will. *Look at John 14:13.* What did Jesus promise the disciples?

Look at 1 John 5:14. What is your promise today?

Jesus is our *mediator* (1 Timothy 2:5). He opens the door for us to pray straight to the Father. That's why we pray "*in Jesus name.*"

Go ahead. Tell him how great He is. That's *praise*. *Thank* Him for all He's done. Don't let sin cause you to feel guilty; *confess* it (agree with Him about it) and go on walking in fellowship (1 John 1:9). Sure, you can also *ask* him for things, like a child asks a father. Pray!

Your new “walk” with God has an instruction manual. The Bible contains your **Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!**

A great way to start every day is to spend a few moments in a *Quiet Time* with God. Take the challenge of going “first and ten” with God! *First* thing in the morning, spend *ten* minutes with God.

What do you do in your quiet time? Easy – just read some scripture for a few minutes, and then pray for a few minutes. It’s good to have a special place and time that is set apart for this – so there are no distractions or interruptions. Starting your day like this shows that God is important to you.

Turn to the Gospel of John, a good place to start your reading. Ask yourself “*who, what when, where, and why*” to help understand the scripture. Enjoy those one-on-one times with God in the morning.

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Signed, Sealed, and Delivered

***Find the mind-blowing promise of
Ephesians 1:13, 14!***

What did the Spirit do when you believed the gospel?

You don't have to ask God for the Spirit. No one needs to fall down in church and make strange sounds to get the Spirit.

When you believed in Christ, the Spirit sealed you. No strings. And the seal of the Spirit is for keeps.

This promise is another guarantee that salvation can't be lost. The Spirit stays.

If God wanted you to be strong could He do anything better than live inside you? This is great! You can't get any more of the Spirit than you already have; But the Spirit can probably get more of you! Being completely yielded to God is called being *filled* with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

The key to your walk with God is *fellowship*. Imagine two fellows in a ship; they are going the same place, seeing the same things, working together against the same challenges. This is the kind of fellowship you can have with the Lord!

The way to keep this close fellowship is to stay in the Word. Staying in the Word is called “walking in the Light.” If you sin, confess it (agree with the Lord) and keep on walking in the Light.

Look at John 15: 5. Jesus is the vine and we are the _____. A branch can produce nothing without the strength it draws from the Vine.

Jesus promised, ***“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee...” Hebrews 13:5b.*** So stay in the Light with Him. Jesus is in your boat, and you have places to go and adventures to live!

Tell Someone

I never have been good at winning contests when they give away a million dollars or a new car. If I *did* win a gift like that I would tell someone about it! Wouldn't you?

Since you have received the gift of eternal life, wouldn't you like to share the good news? God might just use you to help someone else trust in Christ!

Just ask the person if you can share how to go to Heaven. Here's a simple outline to help you share the gospel.

- Heaven is perfect, but we are not.
- Jesus paid a death penalty for our sin on the cross. God was satisfied and raised Jesus from the dead.
- God gives us *His* righteousness when we believe in Christ alone to save us.
- Believers have everlasting life with God.

Be clear about the gospel. Use John 3:16 and Ephesians 2:8, 9 to show that salvation is by faith in Christ + nothing else. You can do it!

Two Natures

When you were born you had a “flesh” nature. Like an operating system on a computer, it guided you. It was selfish and did not please God. This is *still* true of your flesh.

When you believed in Christ, a *new* nature was born. The “spirit” nature is from God. It always pleases God. You are caught in the middle! ***Look at Galatians 5:16, 17.***

The flesh and the spirit are battling it out to see who can control you! You are the battleground!

Your flesh is as bad as ever, even though you belong to God. The flesh still likes sin. You can win the battle by walking in the spirit. It’s a choice you need to make all the time.

Stay in the Word! Pray! Fight! Run! Do whatever it takes. The awesome benefits of walking in the spirit are much better than anything that your old flesh can gain for

you. Let the new nature guide your steps!

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Your Place in the Body

You are not alone! When you believed in Christ you became part of something huge!
Look at 1 Corinthians 12:13.

The “Body of Christ” is the group of people who believe in Christ. The Spirit dipped you into this group when you believed. And He gave you a way to serve. You could be a hand, or foot, or ear, or mouth for God – whatever He wanted you to be.

We need you in the Body!

A good local church could help you learn more about serving as part of the Body. You could be baptized there and help spread the gospel. There is no perfect church but there are a few good ones. Here are some tips. Make sure:

- The pastor believes the whole Bible.
- The church teaches a clear simple gospel message and calls people to believe in Christ for salvation, and not works.

•If something is strange, or out of order, find another church.

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Overcoming the Enemy

When you believed in Christ, Satan remained your enemy. You can still expect temptations to come your way. Hell is not for you, but he can steal your joy and rob you of the *quality* of your walk with God. You can overcome Satan.

Open up to 1 Corinthians 10:13.

Will God allow you to face temptation that is too strong for you to overcome? _____.

If temptation comes, what will God send to help you? _____.

The Devil even tried to tempt Jesus. The Lord defeated him by quoting scripture. This is why having a quiet time is so important!

Stay in the Word so you can be strong in the Spirit. Keep your Quiet Time going and be ready for temptation! The benefits of *overcoming* temptation are far greater than giving in to them. Find the escape route!

Go For the Gold!

What motivates you to serve God? Grace? His Fatherhood? You want others to have eternal life? Hopefully all these are true.

God has given another powerful motivation also. ***Look at 1 Corinthians 3:12-15.***

Eternal life is the gift of God for believers, but eternal rewards are earned!

One day believers will stand before God at the “Judgment Seat of Christ.” The Lord will judge our works there. Believers who have done well will receive rewards. Those whose works are *not* good will not be rewarded. Just picture it!

There’s an awesome opportunity for you! It would give God pleasure to reward your good works! Don’t settle for receiving the free gift of eternal life. Go for the gold! Entrance into heaven is free, but your rewards are being determined by the good works that you can do.... Today!

A Final Word

Be careful to not forget or be confused away from these simple truths from the Bible:

1. Eternal life is a free gift from God. It is not earned. It is freely given to all who believe in Christ. Good works and experiences do not save either before or after believing in Christ (Rom. 5:1, Eph. 2:8, 9).
2. Eternal life is forever. There is nothing that could cause God to cast a child out of His family. God disciplines His children, but never stops being their Father (John 6:37-40, Heb. 12:6-11).
3. The Spirit of God seals every believer. He baptizes a person into God's family as soon as the person believes. God promised the Spirit, and He delivers. The seal of the Spirit cannot be broken (John 14:16, 17, 1 Cor. 12:13, Eph. 1:12-14, Eph. 4:30).
4. The goal of believers should be fellowship with Jesus Christ. Under grace we have the privilege for an intimate walk with God (John 15:1-8).

5. Good works earn rewards for believers. (1 Cor. 3:12-15).

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As newborn babies need nurturing, so do new believers. Here is solid truth for new believers written with clarity and simplicity.