**BOOK 2 BEGINNING YOUR NEW LIFE OF FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST**

**BEGINNING YOUR NEW LIFE SERIES**

The Christian life is not meant to be just a list of rules and regulations or a programme of rituals and ceremonies. God intends us to have a vital, personal relationship with Him. This is why He revealed Himself to mankind in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This booklet is part of a series designed to help a believer grow in his relationship with Jesus Christ.

**TITLES IN THIS SERIES**

1. Beginning your new life with Christ
2. **Beginning you new life of Fellowship with Christ**
3. Beginning you new life in the Holy Spirit
4. Beginning you new life in God’s Word
5. Beginning your new life of Prayer
6. Beginning you new life of Discipleship

**Beginning your new life of fellowship with Christ**

When Jesus called people to be His disciples, He told them that it would mean a life of obedience and that obedience would lead to wonderful fellowship with God. Every Christian can experience this fellowship with God moment by moment as he learns to obey Jesus Christ and Confess sins in His life. This is the full and abundant life.

‘If you love me you will obey what I command, ‘Jesus said to His disciples.

And He promised that those who love and obey Jesus would experience the Father’s love and fellowship most intimately (John 14: 15, 21, 23).

Those who love Jesus will want to know what His commands are so that they can obey them and live constantly in the promised fellowship with God. It is good for us to understand why we should obey, and how God helps us to have victory over temptation.

Perhaps the most common question that Christians ask about sin is this: what happens when I give in to temptation and sin? Is my relationship with God broken? Has Jesus left my life because of that sin?

To answer that question, it may help if we think of a human father-son relationship. When a child is born into a family, he is a child of his father because he has the life of the father in him. Also, his name comes from his father.

Sometimes this child will do things that displease his father. The father may even discipline the child to teach him to do right. Does this mean the child is no longer loved? Is he no longer his father’s son?

The relationship of a father to his son never changes, whether the son does right or wrong. The father’s love remains strong.

But something does change when the son does wrong. The father is displeased. The son cannot enjoy his love as much. He is afraid even to ask for what he needs. His fellowship with his father has been spoilt. To restore their fellowship, the son must go to his father, admitting he is wrong and asking for forgiveness.

In the same way, our relationship with God is permanent. Once we are born of the Spirit into God’s family, we are His children and He is our loving Father. This relationship never changes. But when we sin and do things displeasing to God, our fellowship is spoilt. And to restore it, we must simply admit to Him that we have been wrong and accept His forgiveness.

**God’s Commands**

1. If we want to obey God, what must we learn? Psalm 119:7-8\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Commit yourself now to reading the Bible daily so that you can learn God’s commandments. God’s righteous law is expressed in many different ways throughout Scripture. What commands do you see in the following verses?

1. Exodus 23:8\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Ephesians 4:28\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. 1 Corinthians 6:18\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Colossians 3:9\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Why Obey**

1. According to John 15:10-11, what will happen when we obey Jesus?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. What should be our basic motivation for obeying God? John 14:15\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Why not disobey**

When we are not careful, we may not have the blessings mentioned above. List some of the other things that might happen when a Christian is disobedient:

1. Psalm 66:18\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Hebrews 12:5-7\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. 1John 2:28\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Victory over temptation**

It is not easy to be faithful and godly. Temptations are many and sometimes very strong. Here are some things you can do to prepare for them and to overcome them.

1. (a) Can there be any temptation that we are not able to resist? 1 Corinthians 10:13\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(b) What does God provide with every temptation?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What can we do to keep from sinning against God? Psalm119:11\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do so that they would not fall into temptation? Mathew 26:41\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Confessing your sins**

Remember that sin does not shift us from our relationship with God; it hurts our fellowship with Him.

1. (a) What are we to do with our sins? 1 John 1:9\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(b) What does God promise to do when we confess our sins? (same verse)\_\_

Confession involves three things: agreeing, thanking, and repenting. When we confess, we agree with God that the wrong we did was sin. We thank Him that Jesus has paid for that sin on the cross. We repent showing a change of attitude about that sin, which will result in a change of action.

1. In Psalm 51, David was confessing his sin of adultery. What did he ask God to do for him? Psalm 51:12\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

As soon as a Christian realizes he has sinned, he should immediately confess his sin, and God will restore him to pure and joyful fellowship.

**Action Points**

Take time right now to pray, asking God if there are any unconfessed sins in your life. Write them down on a separate sheet of paper Confess them one by one. Remember to agree, thank and repent. Now destroy your list.

**Next Appointment**

*Day/Date………………………………………………. Time………………………*

**Bible verses used in this booklet**

1. Psalm 119:7-8 “I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous law. I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me.”
2. Exodus 23:8 – ‘Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds those who see and twists the words of the righteous.’
3. Ephesians 4:28 – “He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, by doing something useful with his hands, that he may have something to share with those who are in need.”
4. 1 Corinthians 6:18 – “Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.”
5. Colossians 3:9 – “Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices.”
6. John 15:10 -11 – “If you obey my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commandments and remain in His love. I have told you this so that my love may be complete.”
7. John 14:15 – “If you love me, you will obey what I command.”
8. Psalm 66:18 – “If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.”
9. Hebrews 12:5 -7 – “And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: ‘My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.’ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?”
10. 1 John 2:28 – “And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.”
11. 1 Corinthians10:13 – “No temptation has seized you except that is common to man. 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 stand up under it.”
12. Psalm 119:11 – “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you”.
13. Mathew 26:41 – Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The Spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”
14. 1 John 1:9 – “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us of our sins and purity us from all unrighteousness.”
15. Psalm 51:12 – “Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.”

**Answers**

1. God’s righteous laws.
2. Do not bribe.
3. Do not steal.
4. Do not commit sexual immorality.
5. Do not tell lies.
6. We will remain in His love and our joy will be complete.
7. Love for Jesus.
8. God will not hear our prayers.
9. God may give us hardship and discipline.
10. We will be ashamed when we see Jesus
11. (a) No.

(b) A way out.

1. Hide God’s words in our Hearts (memorize it).
2. Watch and pray.
3. (a) Confess them.

(b) Forgive and cleanse us.

1. Restore the joy of salvation and give him a willing (obedient) heart.