

A NEW START

Now that you have recommitted your life to the Lord Jesus Christ you need to grow strong in your relationship with Him and stay close to Him.

The Bible says we are like sheep that go astray and turn to our own way. God took our sin and our rebellion and placed it on His Son so that we could be forgiven and healed of our waywardness.

“But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by His wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”
Isaiah 53:5, 6

God does not want us to continue in a life-style of independence from Him where we are disobeying His Word and rejecting His ways. The reason is that a life of sin destroys our fellowship with Him and eventually brings devastation to our personal lives and to others.

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”
Galatians 6:7-9

God loves you unconditionally and He wants the best for you. Even when you fail, Jesus is still on your side and wants to help you.

“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”
1 John 2:1,2

When you fail, just be honest with God and confess your sin to Him. You will be instantly forgiven and cleansed.

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”
1 John 1:8, 9

When you prayed to rededicate your life to the Lord, if you confessed your sin and failure then you have a new start. If your conscience is still bothering you because you did not clearly acknowledge your sins to God, then pause for a moment and pray right now. Confess your sins and thank Jesus for shedding His blood for you and forgiving you.

The Lord is a merciful God and wants you to know that He fully accepts you and has forgiven you completely. He no longer remembers your sins. He in no way condemns you.

“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” *Hebrews 8:12*

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” *Romans 8:1*

Its very important that you do not let the whispers of Satan alienate you from God by throwing guilt on you because of past failures. Align yourself with God and His truth and reject the devil's lies.

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” *James 4:7*

Now that you have returned to the Lord you need to gain strength in your spiritual life and grow as a follower of Christ.

There are four basic disciplines that every Christian needs to regularly practice in order to grow strong and make progress in their relationship with God:

- ◆ *Read God's Word Every Day*
- ◆ *Pray To God Continually*
- ◆ *Fellowship With Other Believers*
- ◆ *Share Your Faith In Christ*

You might think of these four practices like four wheels on a car. They are all essential. You won't get very far if you try to function on two or three wheels. You need to persevere in these four things even when you don't feel like it. Remember your feelings are to be servants, not masters. If you keep choosing to do the right things, eventually your feelings will come into submission. In time it will feel good to obey God and practice these four disciplines.

Often when we are sick we lose our appetite. We know, however, that if we just keep eating good food and taking our medicine we'll get better and our appetite will be restored. Persevere in these basic spiritual disciples and you will become healthy and develop a strong appetite for spiritual things.

You need to especially commit yourself to ingesting God's Word. You can do this through reading, studying, listening to, memorizing and meditating upon The Bible. This practice, above all others, will increase your spiritual strength.

“Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” *Matthew 4:4*

“I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.”
1 John 2:14b

Some suggested passages for you to read and meditate upon would be John, chapters 13-17 (several times), Psalms 23, 32, 40, 42, 43, 51, and 119. Also, I John, II Peter, & Jude.

Then get on a regular daily reading schedule through The New Testament. When you have completed that, start at Genesis and go all the way through to Revelation. God's Word will transform you!

REMEMBER, AS A CHILD OF GOD . . .

YOU ARE A NEW CREATION.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO
FALL BACK INTO YOUR OLD WAYS.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"
II Corinthians 5:17

YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.
KEEP YOUR FOCUS ON HEAVEN.

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

I John 5:13

GOD HAS GREAT PLANS FOR YOU.
SEEK HIM DILIGENTLY.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."
Jeremiah 29:11-13

GOD WANTS TO GIVE YOU HIS VICTORY.
CLAIM IT BY FAITH AND REJOICE!

"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
I Corinthians 15:57

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
Philippians 4:4

God does not expect you to live the Christian life on your own strength. This leads to great frustration and defeat. Success in the Christian life is a gift from God. It comes through the empowering of God's Holy Spirit. Daily ask God to fill you with His Spirit's power and you will experience the victorious Christian life.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8

"Let the Holy Spirit fill and control you."
Ephesians 5:18b (NLT)

As you abide in Christ you will become fruitful as a disciple. The Holy Spirit will enable you to overcome the desires and patterns of your old life.

"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."
John 15:5 NASB

"So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature."
Galatians 5:16

God will never forsake you or cease to love you. His mercy is always available for you. The LORD'S unfailing love and grace makes every day a new day.

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."
Hebrews 13:5

"The Unfailing love of the LORD never ends! By His mercies we have been kept from complete destruction. Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each day."
Lamentations 3:22, 23 (NLT)

New Life

New Joy

A New Day!



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