

READ THE INSTRUCTIONS!



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It is surprising how easy it is to omit *reading the instructions* when attempting to operate a new electronic device; digital keyboard; power tool—or anything that has a learning curve in operating it correctly. This reminds us how easy it is to begin each day but omitting to read Bible instructions on how to proceed *with* that day in a right and Scriptural manner.

B I B L E stands for: *Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!* The reading of Revelation reminds us of how *quickly* and *suddenly* the Lord's return will be—we need to *read* and *heed* these basic instructions each day to be assured of *leaving* the earth with those who have been prepared by God to go back with the Lord Jesus. Revelation 22:20 "*Surely I come quickly. Amen.*"

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell us about the life of Christ—God placing much *emphasis* on Jesus' life by repeating the account four times—and then going to the *Acts of the Apostles* to explain how first century believers conducted their life following Jesus' ascension.

The Book of Romans gives a clear description of the world today—it reads like a current news report. After the Book of Romans, the Bible moves to the apostle's letter to the

Corinthian church—addressing important faith issues to the members.

1 Corinthians 1:1 "*Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, 2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: 3 Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.*"

He was *called* by God to *be* an apostle—reminding us that no one should *force* their way into Christian work but should only *accept* such a position when *called* by God. The apostle was carrying on the ministry of his Lord and Master—that was God's will for him. The apostle had previously been an *enemy* of Christ but was now proclaiming the *Gospel* of Christ.

At his conversion on the Damascus road—when a brilliant light forces him from his mount, Acts 9:6 "*And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.*" The apostle knows that he must *proclaim* to the world, the Gospel message of *trust* in the Lord Jesus.

The Church of God is made up of *true believers in God*—who trust on the atoning sacrifice His Son made for them on the Cross. Believers are "*Sanctified in Christ Jesus,*" when they are trusting in His resurrection power for all life issues. We are "*Called to be saints,*" so if we are going through a trial or temptation, we are instructed to: "*Call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.*"

The grace and forgiveness we *all* need every day and the divine peace within that we can *claim* every minute, are always from: "*God our Father,*

and from the Lord Jesus Christ"—by our *claiming* His grace and peace on a regular basis since the sacrifice of Jesus *gives* us that *right* and *privilege*—we must take full advantage of it!

1 Corinthians 1:4 "*I thank my God always [continually] on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; 5 That in everything ye are enriched by him, in all utterance [readiness of speech], and in all knowledge.*"

We should *always* maintain a thankful heart attitude for all that God has given us, and all He continues to give us on a daily basis—especially for the *grace* He extends to everyone who truly repents and who asks Him to forgive them.

That forgiveness of sins is made possible by the shed Blood of Christ. We are much enriched spiritually and blessed in every way, by our *knowing* the Lord Jesus and what He willingly did for us—He took *our* place on the Cross!

1 Corinthians 1:6 "*Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: 7 So that ye come behind [come short] in no [spiritual] gift; waiting for the coming [reappearing] of our Lord Jesus Christ: 8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end [keep you steadfast to the very End], that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

When we *read the instructions*, we will be informed of the life Jesus wants *us* to live, and the attitude of *forgiveness* He *wants* us to have. The life of Christ then is *confirmed* by the way we walk, talk, and forgive others. We should lack no spiritual gift God wants to bestow on us—the gift of *forgiving*; being the *peacemaker*; and *encouraging* someone going through a trial.

Every day we await the return and look for the reappearing of the Lord Jesus—that is, as long as we have a truly repentant heart; a willingness to correct wrong attitudes God shows us; and as long as we maintain a desire to stay within the will of God concerning life situations.

The *power* of God can *keep* us in this *saved* position—by our living according to His instructions; and it is the atoning work of His Son that *keeps* us protected from the devil’s evil plans to deceive us.

If we keep our *faith* in the sacrifice of Christ, God keeps us *safe* under that protective shield. Believers are ^{1 Peter 1:5} “*Kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*”

Being *blameless* and *cleansed* of sin when Jesus returns for the saints, is possible, but *only* by a believing and trusting faith in the perfect sacrifice He made for us. It is a *choice* on the individual’s part, but a most *monumental* choice we will ever make!

The apostle explains being *blameless* before God—he says *be subject to* and *submit to* Christ, “*As the church is subject unto Christ*” in everything ^{Ephesians 5:24}. ^{Ephesians 5:26} “*That he might sanctify and cleanse it [make her holy] with the washing of [baptismal] water by the word,* ²⁷ *That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*”

We have to be *faithful* to trust God, as *He* is always faithful to keep *us*; to deliver; to heal; and to supply us when we ask Him in faith. ^{1 Corinthians 1:9} “*God is faithful [ever true to His promises], by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*”

¹⁰ “*Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing [cultivate a spirit of harmony], and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*”

God is always faithful to do for us what we ask Him in faith to do, and He has called us into fellowship with His Son—to walk by faith and to

obey His instructions on daily living. ^{John 15:4} “*Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*”

Bearing spiritual fruit is following the instructions of the Lord—staying *close* to His words on all issues—and maintaining a forgiving spirit is vital. ^{Colossians 3:13} “*Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*”

We must keep our *trust* on His Atonement, so we can keep a right *attitude* toward those who offend us. We trust God in faith for the ability to do our work well each day—whether the boss is watching or not—^{Colossians 3:24} “*Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.*”

The apostle says ^{1 Corinthians 1:11-16} that *Christ* is *not divided* ^{1 Corinthians 1:13}, so our *faith* and *trust on God* cannot be divided—we cannot pick and choose what we will *trust* God for, and what we will *not* trust Him for. We may have differing opinions on *non-faith* issues, but when it comes to *faith and trust* issues, we are to be in *agreement* and of *one mind*.

We cannot say that we will trust God for finances but not trust Him for healing; we cannot put faith in God for daily supplies but not forgive someone. We are to be of one mind and be consistent on faith issues—like financial trust and not saving for the future: and putting our faith in the Blood of Christ for healing instead of using medication or drugs.

^{1 Corinthians 1:17} “*For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. ¹⁸ For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.*”

The apostle was in full agreement on the baptism issue but mentions it here due to some disputes and disagreements among the members—saying in whose *name* they had been baptized—which was *not* important, but only that they were baptized in the *Name of Jesus Christ*. The apostle was sent “*To preach the gospel*”—which included being baptized!

The Lord Jesus met him on the Damascus road—and the apostle asked Him what he should do. The Lord said ^{Acts 9:6} “*You will be told what you are to do,*” which was to ^{1 Corinthians 1:17} “*Proclaim the Good News; and not in merely wise words—lest the Cross of Christ should be deprived of its power.*”

The purpose of his being *sent*, was to give God’s *Truth* to those who would *listen, learn,* and *accept* that divine plan of life—of trust on God for everything. The apostle recounts his conversion before King Agrippa —saying that Jesus *sent* him ^{Acts 26:18} “*To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.*”

Basic Bible instructions from the holy Scriptures should begin our day, every day—asking God to *open* our heart to His Truth; being willing to *believe* that Jesus gave His life on the Cross, so that *we* could have a *new* life of faith on this earth—a life that *wants* to forgive; *desires* to love; and *longs* to trust God by the power of His Spirit. **To Read the Instructions—has never been more important!**



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