

The background of the cover is a light beige color with a subtle wood-grain texture. In the lower-left quadrant, there is a 3D illustration of a white door that is slightly ajar, revealing a bright blue sky with white clouds. A set of white, 3D-rendered steps leads up to the door. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical layout, with the title at the top and the author's name at the bottom.

WHAT TO DO AFTER YOU ENTER THROUGH THE DOOR

6 Crucial Steps
for Every
New Believer

National Bestselling Author

DANIEL WHYTE III

What to Do After You Enter Through the Door

6 Crucial Steps for Every New Believer

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What to Do After You Enter Through the Door: 6 Crucial Steps for Every New Believer, by Daniel Whyte III

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The Bible quotations in this volume are from the King James Version of the Bible.

*For the Glory of God, and our Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ.*

“Follow boldly in your Master’s steps, for He has made this rough journey before you. Better a brief warfare and eternal rest than false peace and everlasting torment.” —*Alistair Begg*

Introduction

Dear reader, this little book is primarily for people who have already entered through the “Door” of Life by accepting Jesus Christ as their Saviour. If you have not accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour as of yet, please do so today by simply believing in Jesus Christ – that He died for you, that He was buried and rose again, and by calling on His Name to save you. “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13).

Jesus Christ said, “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture” (John 10:9).

I am convinced that there are many people who have entered through the “Door,” that is, they have been truly saved, but sadly no one ever sat down with them and told them correctly what they should do after they have entered in through the “Door.”

Getting saved is most important, but what you do after you are saved is very important as well. In this book, you will find seven things you definitely need to do after you are saved. Starting here will help set you on the right path for a successful Christian life.

“Baptism gets its meaning and its importance from the death of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in our place and for our sins, and from his triumph over death in the resurrection that guarantees our new and everlasting life.” —*John Piper*

1

Get Baptized

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”

—Matthew 28:19

You have probably heard more about baptism in your life than you have about salvation. In fact, a lot of people confuse baptism with salvation. However baptism, or “getting baptized,” is only an outward physical expression of a inward reality that has already taken place. Nonetheless, it is very important that you obey the Lord and follow Him in believers’ baptism. Even if you were baptized at another time in your life, if you have recently truly believed in Christ for salvation, you still need to be baptized again because you were not saved the first time you were baptized. We don’t get baptized to be saved, rather we get baptized because we are saved.

When we get baptized, we are following the example of Jesus Christ who submitted Himself to the ritual of baptism as well. Matthew 3:13-17 reads:

Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Jesus, of course, is God. He did not have to be baptized. But, because He came to Earth as a

human to show us how we ought to live, He set this example for us. If Jesus did it, so should you.

Not only is baptism the practice of following our Lord in obedience, baptism is also symbolic of what has happened in our souls through salvation. After Jesus died on the cross, He was buried in a tomb, and then, three days later, He rose from the dead. In Christ, we have also died, been buried in Him, and have been raised in Him. Baptism is a living picture of that inner reality. That is why, when you are baptized, you will likely hear the minister proclaim words similar to what is found in Colossians 2:12: “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

When you come up out of the baptismal waters, it is a way of showing to yourself and to the members of your new family that your soul has been washed clean through the blood of Christ. You are a new creature in Christ, and you have a new life in Christ.

“Individualist Christianity is a myth and a damaging pursuit. Church membership doesn’t save us. But it enables us to grow and become spiritually mature in Christ. Not only should we be members of the body, each of us should also be able to express the value of membership.”

—*Ed Stetzer*

2

Join a Good Church

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

—Hebrews 10:25

When you become a believer in Christ, you are automatically adopted into a new family. You have an abundance of brothers and sisters who are eager to welcome you, help you get started on your journey, and walk with you through the highs and lows of the future. However, for many people, fitting in with a new family is not easy. It may seem easier to attempt to go it alone, but this is a dangerous mistake. At the worst of times, you will need your family to lean on; at the best of times, you will want your family around to celebrate with; and in the in-between times, you will grow to cherish the fellowship and camaraderie that can be found in a family.

Your new family is called the body of Christ and the tangible expression of that family is the local church. After receiving Christ as Savior, as soon as possible, you should join a good local church. To give you an idea of the seriousness of local church membership, notice these words from Ed Stetzer:

The reality is we have often thought of membership like belonging to a select club, or like the old American Express commercial where “membership has its privileges.”

That is not the way the Bible refers to membership. In fact, in 1 Corinthians Paul doesn’t say the church is *like* a body. He says the church *is* a body. The phrase he uses to describe the individual connectedness is we are “members of the body.”

The word “member” in the Bible is more closely related to the medical word “member” than it is to the common cultural term. As an example, some of you who are reading may have lost a finger or toe in an accident. On that unfortunate day, you were dismembered. That’s the actual technical terminology. A member of your body was separated from the body. That is a tragic thing.

Regardless of how the culture sees it or Christians misunderstand it, membership is not simply an opportunity to say, I'm a part of a club, but rather a scriptural expression of covenant connectedness to a church.

Getting connected to a good church home—fulfilling your role as a member—is one of the best things you can do early in your Christian walk. So, which local church should you join? In some cities, it may seem as if there is a church on every corner. Not every building that says “church” on its door is a church of the Lord Jesus Christ, as there are many false groups that claim to be churches in the world today.

Below are some marks of a good church:

- The pastor preaches from the Word of God, the Bible. He strives to practice what he preaches. And he believes the Bible to be God's guideline for faith and practice in life.

- The church stands on the basics of the Christian faith. The basics of the Christian faith are:
 - The Bible is inspired by God
 - The deity of Jesus Christ
 - The blood atonement for sin by Jesus Christ
 - Salvation by faith in Jesus Christ
 - The imminent return of Jesus Christ

Do not be afraid to ask questions of the pastor and other leaders in the church. Look on the church's website for a statement of faith. If you don't find one online, ask the church to show you a copy of its statement of faith. If their statement of faith does not line up with the five points listed above, you'd best walk away.

- The church emphasizes reaching others with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A church that is not reaching others for Christ will eventually grow stagnant. You want to be part of a church that is on fire for the Lord and that is constantly inviting others to be a part of the Christian family.
- The church members show the love of Jesus Christ. This is something you can feel almost from the moment you walk in the door. If you are greeted with a genuine smile, a genuine welcome, and genuine concern, you may very well have found a good church home.

These are just a few marks of a good church. Pray and follow the Lord's leading.

“God’s primary plan for the Church is for disciples of Jesus to develop other men and women into disciples! There is probably no other more primary matter of negligence in the Church today than our failure to follow the Lord’s command to develop disciples. Because of this gross neglect, many Christians think of themselves as an audience to be entertained rather than an army ready to march. Discipleship must function as the heart of church ministry.”

—*Bill Hulk*

3

Allow Yourself to be Trained

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

—Matthew 28:20

The main purpose of being in a local church body is so that you can be trained or disciplined in your Christian walk. You may have grown up in the church. You may live around a lot of Christian folk. But, I assure you, you do not know all that you think know about following Christ.

Jesus chose twelve men—His disciples—and worked closely with them for three years. He trained them, taught them, explained things to them, and sent them out to practice what He had taught them. And, even then, they were still learning.

Likewise, you will always be growing in your Christian walk. You will never obtain perfection

this side of Heaven. And the best way to learn about your walk with Christ is to humble yourself and submit yourself to the teaching of others who have walked this road before.

Discipleship is something that Jesus commanded all of His followers to engage in. In Matthew 28, He said, “Go and make disciples of all nations.” Those who disciple you in the faith may include: your pastor, a Sunday School teacher or Bible study leader, and/or an older Christian who takes you under their wing, someone you respect and trust to pray for you and give you good advice.

When you are seeking a church home to join, be sure to ask about the discipleship program. If a church does not have a rigorous program for training new believers, you should not join that local body. The reason why is because, despite the pastor's best efforts, he simply will not be able to teach you all you need to know in detail about walking with Christ in his weekly sermons. At those times, the pastor must tend to the spiritual needs of the whole congregation. While you will

obtain much benefit from the weekly gathering, you can enrich your spiritual life ten-fold by being engaged in a rigorous program of discipleship.

By submitting to training in the church, you will soon be equipped to faithfully follow Christ and to reach back and disciple someone else.

“The secret of success in Christ’s Kingdom is the ability to pray.” —*E.M. Bounds*

4

Pray Daily

“And [Jesus] spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray and not to faint.”

—Luke 18:1

You probably know already what it means to pray. Praying is talking to God. The struggle for most Christians, however, is actually praying. Most believers make the mistake of thinking that prayer is easy. But prayer isn't easy because your spiritual enemy, Satan, does not want you to talk to God. So, you must resist the urge to skip out on prayer.

You should set aside time to talk to God every morning, every afternoon, and every night. The best way to conquer inertia about prayer is to set specific times for prayer and to keep those times every day. Some of God's greatest servants had set times for prayer. The Prophet Daniel even had a specific routine for his times of prayer. He knelt

in front of a window opened toward Jerusalem and talked to God three times a day, the same times every day. Daniel's routine helped him remain faithful in his prayer life. You should consider doing the same.

When your daily times for prayer come around, simply talk to your Heavenly Father as you would talk to a neighbor. Ask for guidance and direction in life, confess your sins, talk to God about your problems, pray for others, and request the things that you desire. If you learn to keep set times for prayer, as you grow in your Christian walk, you will be better equipped to pray without ceasing—to pray anytime and anywhere.

If, at first, you feel intimidated about talking to God, remember that Jesus gave His disciples a model prayer. There is nothing wrong with praying this prayer starting out.

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it

is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Robert Velarde wrote:

Prayer allows us to worship and praise the Lord. It also allows us to offer confession of our sins, which should lead to our genuine repentance. Moreover, prayer grants us the opportunity to present our requests to God. All of these aspects of prayer involve communication with our Creator. He is personal, cares for us, and wants to commune with us through prayer.

Prayer is not just about asking for God's blessings – though we are welcome to do so – but it is about communication with the living God. Without communication, relationships fall apart. So, too, our relationship with God suffers when we do not

communicate with Him.

The most important thing about prayer is that you can do it any time. And that is the point God wants you to get to. He wants to hear from you every day throughout the day. Don't take this opportunity for granted. Avail yourself of the power of prayer in your walk with Christ.

“The Word of God is living, effective, and able to judge the ideas and thoughts of the heart. If Jesus is the Word of God and He’s not dead, then the power of God’s Word on the pages of Scripture isn’t dead either. If the Holy Spirit speaks through the Word, the Bible has a heartbeat. The Word is alive!” —*Brandon D. Smith*

5

Read Your Bible Daily

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

—Romans 10:17

One of the first things you should do as a new believer is to get a Bible. And, today, the Bible is more accessible than ever. You can buy a Bible at a bookstore or order a print copy online. You can also download a Bible app on your phone or tablet, or access Scripture on your computer via the internet. One highly recommended website and app is YouVersion (www.bible.com). Within a few seconds, at your fingertips, you can have access to the Word of God in dozens of versions and over 1,000 languages (<https://www.bible.com/languages>).

The Bible is God's revelation to mankind. It is the saga of salvation from beginning to end. The 66 books that make up the Bible comprise history, poetry, proverbs, prophecy, and teaching. God has

addressed almost every topic you can think of in the pages of His book.

John Piper said:

When we seek to enjoy communion with the Lord — and not to be led astray by the ambiguities of religious experience — we read the Bible. From Genesis to Revelation, God’s words and God’s deeds reveal God himself for our knowledge and our enjoyment. We must seek to understand the Bible’s meaning, and we must pause to contemplate what we understand and, by the Spirit, to feel and express the appropriate response of the heart.

God communicates with us in many ways through the Bible and seeks the response of our communion with him.

It is normal to feel overwhelmed when trying to read the Bible for the first time. Here are some tips to get started.

- Choose a version of the Bible that you are

comfortable with reading. The Bible was originally written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. The English versions of Scripture that we have today aim to faithfully translate the original text with language that is understandable for modern readers. Many churches use the King James Version (KJV) or the New King James Version (NKJV) for congregational reading during weekly services. We can also recommend the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) and the New International Version (NIV).

- Don't think that you have to immediately understand everything you read in the Bible. Feel free to read a passage again and again. Also, feel free to read a passage once and move on to what comes next. You can always return to a difficult passage as you gain an understanding of the Christian walk.
- Choose a Bible reading plan and stick with it. A good Bible reading plan will compel you to not give up on Scripture. It will also

break down the Bible into easier-to-digest segments. You can view a list of good Bible reading plans on BibleGateway's website (<https://www.biblegateway.com/reading-plans/>).

- If you are reading the Bible for the first time, we recommend starting with the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—continuing with the Book of Acts, and then the rest of the New Testament before turning to the Old Testament and starting with the book of Genesis.
- Consider getting a study Bible. Study Bibles contain helpful notes that help explain the word of God to you. One of the best study Bibles is the *Life Application Study Bible* (<https://www.amazon.com//dp/1414359810>)
- If you want to get a more complete view of Scripture as you read, add a good Bible

commentary to your daily reading time. A commentary provides in-depth explanations of Biblical themes and the historical context of events in Scripture. Some good commentaries are: *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, edited by John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck; *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary*, by Warren W. Wiersbe; and *The Believer's Bible Commentary*, by William MacDonald.

Reading the Bible is a wonderful, life-changing, transformative experience. It is the primary way by which you will learn and grow in your walk with Christ.

“The need for people to hear the Good News of God's love and forgiveness is a matter of life and death. Helping to fulfill the Great Commission is both a duty and a privilege. We witness because we love Christ. We witness because He loves us. We witness because we want to honor and obey Him. We witness because He gives us a special love for others.” —*Bill Bright*

6

Witness for Christ

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

—Acts 1:8

Are you glad that Jesus saved your soul from sin and the punishment of sin? If so, perhaps the best way to show your gratitude for God's good gift is to tell others about what Jesus has done for you. Don't let anyone tell you that witnessing for Christ is a special job for a few special saints. All believers are commanded to witness for Christ.

According to Merriam-Webster, to witness simply means “to testify to; to have personal or direct knowledge of; to bear witness to one's religious convictions.” When you witness for Christ, you are simply saying, “Here is what Jesus has done for me and what He can do for you as well.” Read

this statement from Bibles for America:

Witnessing for Christ does not require that we attend seminary or receive special training. Believing in and receiving Christ qualifies us to be His witnesses. This is evidenced by all the different cases in the New Testament of newly saved people going out immediately to speak about Christ and what He had done for them. We are not required to compose long messages or to speak eloquently of all the things in the Bible in order to witness to people. How daunting if this were the case! All that is required of us is to look to the One in us and speak of our experience of Christ. Even if we are newly saved, we can testify, “I was empty and alone, but now Christ lives in me!”

Everything you have read about in this book will equip you to be a witness for Christ. The more you learn about the faith through discipleship, prayer, Bible reading, and church attendance, the better prepared you will be to intelligently share your faith and answer the questions of friends, family members, co-workers, and strangers.

Never try to convince someone to believe what

you believe about God. All you can do is share:

1. That all people are sinners
2. That the punishment of sin is death and hell
3. That, despite our sin, God loves us
4. That God sent His Son Jesus Christ to save us
5. That Jesus died on the cross and took our punishment on Himself
6. That Jesus was buried and that He rose from the dead, demonstrating His victory over sin, death, and Hell
7. That, if we believe on Jesus, we obtain salvation from sin, the power to live right, everlasting life, and eternity in Heaven with God

Your job is not to win souls. So, don't feel discouraged if someone does not believe. Your job is to witness. Even if someone does not receive Jesus Christ for salvation immediately, you have done your part by sharing your faith with them. You have planted a seed that can be watered over time, and that person may make a

decision for Christ in the future. So plant the seed everywhere you go and allow God to use you to “turn many from darkness to light.”

“After learning to love God, learning to love others is the second purpose of your life.”

—*Rick Warren*

Again, congratulations on entering through the “Door” of Eternal Life by believing in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Trusting Jesus Christ, as your personal Saviour is the most important thing you will ever do. Now that you are saved, live for the One who died for you. God bless you as you serve Him.

Other Books by Daniel Whyte III

The Prayer Motivator (Volumes 1, 2, & 3)

Just Jesus: The Greatest Things Ever Said About the
Greatest Man Who Ever Lived (Volume 1, 2, & 3)

4 Dangerous Spirits to Avoid

7 Keys to the God-Blessed Life

The Paradox of the "Committed" Christian Life

What to Do When God is Whipping Your Behind

The Unsung Heroes of Easter

The Most Exciting and Eventful Week in History

Easter According to the Apostles' Creed

After These Things

10 Things God Wants You to Do in the Last Days