



New Beginnings Class - Student

This class is for all those who have made a decision to follow Christ; whether for the first time or as rededication or reaffirmation of decisions made in the past. This brief study is to help focus on the steps necessary to establish a relationship with God and to grow in that relationship. Of course, it is good for every believer to be reminded of these basic principles to ensure we are putting into practice that which we know. (James 4:17)

1. To follow Christ means to go where He _____;
to submit to His direction; in short to obey.

a. _____ is the key to having a relationship with God.

Hebrews 11:6 = *“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”*

Proverbs 3:5-6 = *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”*

b. Faith is demonstrated by _____, trusting God over our own reason; even when it doesn't make sense to do so.

James 2:14-24 = *“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is*

useless? Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend. You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith alone." See also the rest of chapter 11 of the book of Hebrews.

- c. We cannot obey if we do not _____. We must know what the instructions are before we can obey, but we are talking about more than just knowing the "rules" so that we can avoid breaking them, but we are talking about hearing from God so that we can follow His direction for our lives. We are talking about relationship, not religion!

2. How do we hear the _____ of God? How does God speak to us and give us the direction we are to follow? How can we be sure it is God speaking to us?

- a. Prayer - prayer is not only speaking to God, but _____ to Him. Prayer is a conversation with God - a two way conversation!
 - i. We must learn to recognize His voice. (Key word here is "learn")
 - ii. Set aside daily time(s) to pray. Be consistent.
 - iii. Begin praying out loud.
 - iv. Develop a continual attitude of prayer - communication with the Lord.
 - v. Meditate focused on the Lord and listen!

b. Bible reading - combined with _____ or as a separate study.

- i. Establish a daily time to read the Bible
- ii. Learn to study the Bible - learn what the Bible teaches so that its teaching may be applied/obeyed.
- iii. Distinguish between studying the Bible and allowing God to speak to you through His Word.

c. Teaching/preaching - Make a _____ of hearing preaching and teaching.

- i. Again, distinguishing between being taught and allowing God to speak to you. (both are important)
- ii. The church attendance is vital to hearing from God.
Hebrews 10:24-25 = *“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*
- iii. The operation of the Gifts of the Spirit are principally in the context of the body of Christ, God using one believer to speak to or minister to another.

3. Fellowship with other believers who are following Christ is key to our _____ to discern the voice of God. (Church attendance)

- a. It is important to be discipled, to follow the _____ of someone else whose life demonstrates a real relationship with God. **1**

Corinthians 11:1 = *“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”*

- b. **(IMPORTANT)** God uses multiple _____ simultaneously, each to confirm the other. Be careful not to use one method of hearing from the Lord exclusively - These methods work in tandem and it is important to learn by the example of others who are successfully following Christ.
- c. Maintain a _____ to be disciplined.

4. We must also be willing to lead _____. We are responsible to disciple others that are looking for the hope we have discovered.

Matthew 28:18-20 = *“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.””*

- a. Share what you have _____. Do not be afraid to say “I don’t know.”
John 9:25 = *“He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!””*
- b. Be _____ about the reason you are making changes to your life. Speak about your new priorities with others.
- c. Invite those you know to “_____ and _____.”
John 1:40-42 = *“Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We*

have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.