

# Let Us Grow

...since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.  
Colossians 3.9b-10

## Lesson 2

“...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.”

~I Peter 2.2

## A New Person

Today we will finish looking at the commands of God you obeyed in becoming a Christian. Consider again the words of John in 1 John 2.3-6. Basically, John is saying that *actions speak louder than words*.

Simply saying that we love God and believe in Him is not enough to secure salvation. Our actions (keeping God's word) are the proof of our love for God.

Your first steps toward God began with your belief in Him and the willingness to *change* your life. The desire one feels to make changes in their life comes from the sadness or sorrow we feel once we realize that our way of thinking and living is separating us from our creator and Lord.

### What do you see?

Read Acts 2.29-39. Do you see the deep sorrow the people felt when they cried out to Peter and the other apostles, “*Men and brethren, what shall we do?*” They realized that their souls would be lost at that moment if they did not *change* (repent).



## Search Your Bible

After you believed in God and decided to repent, you also publicly **confessed** that you believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God. This **confession** outwardly demonstrates your inner belief and it shows that you accept that Christ has authority over your life. Take a look at some confessions found in the Bible; notice how they were similar to yours:

- Matthew 16.13-17 (Peter Confesses his belief in Christ)
- Acts 8.36-38 (The Ethiopian eunuch Confesses his belief)
- Romans 10.9-10 (Confessing Christ is necessary for salvation)



Following your confession, you *acted* and *obeyed* Christ's command to be **baptized** so that you can have forgiveness of your sins. Let's take a look at a few places in the Bible to reinforce your understanding of baptism.

## Why is **baptism** important?

- It is how we receive forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2.38).
- Baptism *washes away* sins by the blood of Jesus (Acts 22.16).
- To be *in Christ* we *put on Christ* through baptism (Galatians 3.27).
- Jesus taught that to get into the kingdom of God, Nicodemus would have to be *born again*, of the water and the Spirit (Jn 3.3-5, I Peter 1.22-25).
- Baptism is our answer to God's call and through it we are saved (1 Peter 3.21).

### What do you see?

Read Romans 6.3-14.

Many people know that they need the blood of Christ to be saved, but they are confused as to the way in which we contact the pure blood that covers sin. Paul tells us in Romans 6.

- Christ shed (sacrificed) His blood at the cross and died.
- He was then buried. (We are buried too! See verse 4? When we are baptized, we go down in the water which represents the burial of our old, sinful person.)
- Jesus was then raised from the dead by God. (When we come up out of the water in baptism, we follow the pattern of Christ's life.)
- We are raised up a spiritually new person, clean from sin.
- Baptism is **how** we come in **contact** with the **blood** of Jesus!



### Mark Your Bible

Here are some good verses to mark in your Bible for later study.

- We must **confess** Jesus: Matthew 10.32-33, Romans 10.9-10.
- Examples in the Bible: Matthew 16.13-17, Acts 8.36-38.
- We must be **Baptized**: Mark 16.16, Acts 2.38, 22.16, Rom 6.1-6.