



# I'm a believer, now what?

Life is a journey and we are on this journey together. Your recent spiritual commitment might be something you've been considering for a long time or it could be that the Holy Spirit spoke to you during a worship service, small group study, or conversation. Your experience might be a lot like that of other people or it could be unique. By surrendering your life to Christ, you drew a line that separates your past from your future. By talking about your commitment with someone at Long Hollow, you publicly stated that you want your future to be different from your past. We want to help you pursue that goal. More importantly, God wants to help you. The Bible has some very encouraging words for you.

**This is the start of something new.** God loves you so much that He gives you a new start. Because you asked Him to forgive you of your sins, He did and He will not keep bringing up your past (Psalm 103:12).

**Your life will never be the same.** You have a new purpose because God has a plan for you. Your recent commitment is your confession of the fact that your way of managing your life hasn't worked. Your commitment also is your recognition of God's authority over all of life (Jeremiah 29:11).

## What will derail your commitment?

**Procrastination.** Have you ever put off something you knew you needed to do? We all have done this at one time or another. We put off things we believe will be difficult or too time consuming. We put off finishing school or doing odd jobs around the house. We can even put off following through on a commitment we made.

It is easy to put off doing the things that will help you grow spiritually. That's why the next few days are so important. Don't wait to get started. The sooner you get into God's Word, the sooner you will experience the fullness of your life in Christ.

**Discouragement.** Some people make the mistake of thinking that their problems will disappear when they get into a right relationship with God. The Bible doesn't teach that. Paul, the author of most of the New Testament, wrote that God is in the business of changing us from the inside out. God didn't promise to renew your circumstances; He promises to renew your mind. By changing your mind, God changes everything. As you give God control of your mind, you will begin to love what He loves. You will look at your circumstances differently. You will see God teaching you important truths as you deal with life's challenges.

## The keys to spiritual growth

You see Long Hollow's purpose statement online and in print. You might be surprised to learn that the purpose statement also provides the framework for your spiritual growth.

**Come** to Christ in worship. Worship is a human response to God's mercy and grace. It's not something you attend; it's an attitude of the heart. If God is real in your life, worship will be a natural reaction.

**Connect** with other believers. You were never intended to go through life alone. We need others to walk with us on the journey. When you accepted Christ, you joined the family of God. Invest time getting to know your new brothers and sisters.

**Grow** in spiritual maturity. The early church was established in a community of authentic faith. People did life together. We also need to do life together in small groups. Jesus ministered in the context of a small group. You will not grow spiritually through worship attendance alone.

**Serve** the Lord in the church and community. God has a plan for your life and it involves making Him famous. Every aspect of your life is an investment. Will you invest in what matters to you or in those things that matter to God?

**Go** reach the lost by telling your story. You likely came to Christ through the influence of other people. Now it's your turn. Tell your story at home and take it to people who have never heard about Jesus.



## RELATED SCRIPTURE

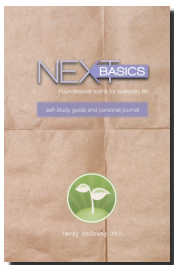
Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will (Romans 12:2).

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us (Psalm 103:12).

"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" (Jeremiah 29:11).



## RELATED RESOURCES



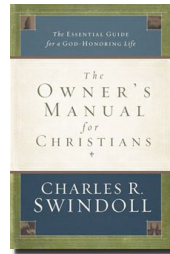
### Basics: Foundational Truths for Everyday Life

Terry Hadaway  
ISBN 978-0984192366

If you aren't moving forward with God, you are moving backwards. There is no staying where you are.

Jesus came into the world to permanently mend a broken relationship between God and mankind. Faith is the basis of that relationship. The more you know about God, the more you'll trust Him. The more you trust Him, the stronger your relationship with Him will be. The stronger that relationship is, the more accurately you will reflect His character in every area of life. That's the process of spiritual maturity.

In this four-week, self-directed study, you will discover or be reacquainted with some truths that—when applied to your life—will put you on the path to spiritual maturity. These are the basics!



### The Owner's Manual for Christians: The Essential Guide for a God-Honoring Life

Charles Swindoll  
ISBN 978-1400203017

The instant after salvation, the new believer's question is: "What next? How should I live now that my life has changed?" What they discover, and what every Christian discovers, is that living a life that glorifies God requires mastering some basics, nothing more nothing less. Yet most honest Christians would say that sin persists in their lives, and walking the walk can be harder than it looks.

Written for all believers, *The Owner's Manual for Christians* captures the essentials of the Christian life in simple, inspiring terms. Clear biblical teaching and pastoral instruction encourages readers onto the Christian life they long for . . . and can have. It just takes a God-given desire for obedience and the practical applications this book teaches. This will be a must-have for every Christian for years to come.

### Small Groups at Long Hollow

You can find ongoing support for every challenge in life in a small group. Visit [longhollow.com/grow](http://longhollow.com/grow) and then click the button to Launch Group Finder Now.