

Through baptism in the name of Holy Trinity (God, Jesus, Holy Spirit), you accepted Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as your Lord and Savior. Awesome! Be sure to pray something like this, “Jesus, I surrender. I want to follow You. I am sorry for... Please take control of my life.”

Either now, or later, you may ask yourself, “*Now what?*” In that case, I have prepared possible next steps for you to grow as a believer in Jesus Christ.

Next:

- Most of us can admit that, regardless of if we are baptized or not, we could still grow spiritually. So, ongoing spiritual growth is important. Here are **four** spiritual disciplines to engage in:
 - Prayer. God’s Word (The Bible) teaches us to, “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Prayer is talking to God.
 - Bible study. “Study” does not necessarily mean joining a Bible study (more on that later). Read the Bible, consistently. “Stay in the Bible daily, it will save your life” (Quote from Travis Voeltz). No experience required. If you would like assistance in paying for, or picking one out, please ask. Your pastor is happy to help and can give suggestions on where in the Bible to start.
 - Our church has a free app. to download that has a Bible right on it, along with resources to learn about Christian discipleship from the comfort of your own space and time.
 - Worship. This means worshipping God. Sunday morning services at church are an example of this, although opportunities at other times and days happen too.
 - Attending worship is a part of the next step too (fellowship).
 - Fellowship. Fellowship is simply being with other believers. This could be around a meal, at an event, or simply hanging out in your living room with other believers.

There are additional spiritual disciplines out there, but those are the main ones. The Church began with this: “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42). Apostles’ teachings happen at worship services at church (sermons) and or Bible studies offered, including Sunday school options for both adult and youth. Fellowships can also be at worship services as well as other events we put on. Prayer can happen anytime, anywhere, 24/7. Breaking of bread applies to both meals together with other believers and taking Communion (which we offer monthly during our church’s worship services).

Before continuing, please know that NO ONE does all this *overnight*, but rather in time, throughout their life. Think of these as, as Methodist founder John Wesley said, “moving on to perfection.”

- Involvement in Small Groups. (I promised more on Bible study earlier). I encourage you to watch for and find a small group that fits you. Watch for offerings listed in the monthly newsletters, the weekly email (called Church Connex), or the events tab on the

app. These opportunities provide for deeper study of God's Word, mutual support, and accountability. NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED.

There is more to consider, but the above are great starting points! If you are interested in any of the following, please do not hesitate to ask any of the pastors about:

Service and ministry involving *your* spiritual gifts; stewardship and generosity; mission and outreach.

The hope is for lifelong learning, along with continual evaluation and reflection (of self, by self).

To God be the glory.

Sincerely,

Travis Voeltz, Pastor.