



Have you ever seen a tree grow that's not connected to the source of its nourishment? Have you ever seen fish that swims without the need of water? Have you ever seen a deep-sea diver dive without getting oxygen to sustain him in deep water? In the same way it is impossible to enter the Christian life without receiving the power to sustain that life from somewhere and someone other than us.

Many people join the church or say they are following Christ without getting *connected to Christ* the only source that can empower them to live a Christian life.

Like a major city that experiences a power outage or a car that is unable to start, because the battery has died, such is the life without Holy Spirit's power. Where there is no power there is no life. Flowers that have roots and are being nourished will be growing and flourishing. Christians that are planted in Christ will be growing and flourishing.

Getting connected is just the beginning. To continue to grow there are practices that must be incorporated in daily living and worship. Bible study, prayer, Christian service, and the exercise of spiritual gifts are all essential to growing in Christ. This outline has been designed to lead you into learning the important elements of your connection and growth in your Christian walk. As you study, you will discover that there is no greater joy than growing and sharing your faith in Jesus.

GETTING CONNECTED

- Romans 6:4** - We enter a new life in Christ.
- John 15:4, 5** - Without Jesus we are incapable of accomplishing anything.
- Colossians 3:1-4** - Set our affections on things about not on earthly things.
- 1 Corinthians 6:11** - We were sanctified and set apart for a holy use.
- 1 Peter 2:2** - Our desire is the milk or nourishment of the Word of God
- Galatians 5:22, 23** - The fruit of the Spirit, (love, joy, peace, etc.), is displayed and alive.
- John 8:36** - We find complete freedom in Christ.
- Philippians 4:13** - We receive power to do accomplish all things through Christ.
- Galatians 6:15** - We become a New Creation in Christ.
- Romans 1:16** - As believers we partake of the power of the gospel.
- Romans 8:14** - We are led by the Holy Spirit as sons and daughters of God.

MATURITY IN OUR CONNECTION

- Hebrews 5:13, 14** - We mature by going from milk to the solid food in God's Word.
- Hebrews 6:1** - As we grow we advance beyond the simple teachings of the Bible.
- 1 Peter 2:5** - We are being built up as the living stone of a spiritual house.
- Ephesians 4:13** - Our growth continues until we reflect the fullness of Christ.
- Ephesians 4:14** - We are no longer children that are easy to sway.
- Ephesians 6:10** - We become strong in the Lord and in the power of His full armor.

THE RESULTS OF THE CONNECTION

- Philippians 1:6** - Jesus begins a work in us that He will perform and complete.
- 2 Peter 3:18** - We grow in the grace and in knowledge of our Lord and Savior.
- Romans 15:16** - We are sanctified, or made holy, by the Holy Spirit's work in us.
- 1 Corinthians 1:2** - We are continually being sanctified in Christ Jesus.
- Romans 10:17** - Our faith increases by the study of God's Word.
- 1 John 3:1-2** - We receive the assurance that one day we will be just like Jesus.

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Acts 2:38** - We must repent and be baptized before we receive Holy Spirit.
- 1 Corinthians 2:14** - The Holy Spirit enlightens our understanding.
- John 16:13** - The Holy Spirit continues to reveal truth to us.
- Acts 1:8** - The Holy Spirit empowers us to witness to others about Jesus.
- Romans 8:1** - The Holy Spirit enables us to live a spiritual life.
- Romans 8:26** - The Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses and our prayer life.
- Ephesians 4:30** - The Holy Spirit seals us in preparation of the day of redemption.

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- 1 Corinthians 12:7** - The gifts are given to us so that all benefit from each gift.
- 1 Corinthians 12:11** - The Holy Spirit distributes gifts that He determines we need.
- John 16:13** - The Holy Spirit continues to reveal truth to us.
- Romans 8:1** - The Holy Spirit enables us to live a spiritual life.