



 **TODAY'S CHURCH**
REAL PEOPLE REAL FAITH REAL GOD

New Faith Foundations

A week-by-week devotion through the first few steps of your journey in faith

PASTOR CHRISTIE AMOYO

INTRODUCTION

You believe in Jesus!

*Everyone who calls upon the
Name of the Lord will be saved
Romans 10:13 NIV*

Whether you invited Jesus into your heart and life because you were told to or thought it was a good idea, we are glad you did!

We are all on a journey

My journey started when I was 2 years old. My grandmother got me to ask Jesus into my life, but it was not until I was 13 when I asked myself. By the time I was 18, I committed myself to really *knowing Him*, and then at 28, I was completely SOLD OUT!

Wherever you may be on your journey, that is great! *Don't compare yourself to others. God has made YOU to be unique and He has a great purpose for you!*

This is what the Bible says:

"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" – John 3:16

God loved YOU so much that He sent His Son for you. His Son took your place, He wiped out every bad and sinful thing you have ever done and made a way for you to be set free from sin, death, condemnation and guilt.

God hears and answers our prayers

When I invited Christ into my life at 13, the biggest prayer in my heart was for my family. My mom, step-dad and dad were all alcoholics; I had a tough upbringing. Within a few months after specifically praying for them, they all quit drinking; I knew then, that God was real. *Only He could do that* for my family. It was then that I made the choice to know Him more.

I didn't know anything about the Bible then. At the time, I only knew that God could hear and answer my prayers. This is how I began and it has brought me to where I am today.

I want you to know that you can start right where you are, too! If you've never read the Bible before, a great place to start is the Book of John. I believe that week-by-week devotion will also help you on your journey of walking in Faith and getting to know God more each day!

Jesus died for YOU! Now you live in Him and He has made you worthy! You were not worthy before, but He died for you anyways! HE LOVES YOU!

God is always with you! He has nothing but great things in store for you! We are excited to see God move in your life and we are with you every step of the way!

-Pastor Christie Amoyo

Start with thanking God for today for your New Faith! Thank Him for all He has done and all that He is going to do through you!

WEEK 1

God's Word Speaks!

*Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world, even our faith. 1
John 5:1,4 KJV*

It's really nice to connect with you and we pray that God is pleasing to you. I know that you may even sound funny, but really, that is what He wants to do! He does it through the written Word (Bible) and through the Holy Spirit.

When we receive Jesus into our hearts and lives, and we believe Him, God says in the Bible that we also receive the Holy Spirit. We are then considered 'born again'. This is not a physical rebirth, but a spiritual one. We now have God's Spirit living on the inside of us!

Your relationship with God is the most important thing. Almighty God, the Creator of the Heavens and the Earth, created YOU and loves YOU and He wants to reveal so many things to YOU! We are all different and He knows what we need and when we need it. He wants you to thrive in the life that He gave you! Isn't that exciting?!

What changed our lives was not that we read the Bible all day, every day (although that isn't a bad thing!). What changed our lives was that we chose to believe what the Bible said over everyone and everything around us....AND GOD BLESSED US!

We had peace in our minds, healing in our bodies, and great financial provision!

God is simple. All we have to do is believe and trust in Him.

Take a moment in a quiet place to pray first, then ask God to speak to you through His Word.

WEEK 2

Kingdom Law

Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law, instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace. Romans 6:14 NLT

I pray you are encouraged and understand that you are blessed! God has set YOU up to receive ALL that He came here for – your freedom!

The moment you receive Christ in your life, sin and death no longer reign over your life. It is no longer your Lord – Christ is! You can now live above the forces of this world.

In Matthew 28:18, Jesus says that all power has been given to Him in Heaven and in Earth. In Mark 16:15, Jesus tells His people to go into all the world and preach the Gospel—the good news about Christ setting us all FREE! He doesn't hold our sins (past mistakes, etc.) against us and we don't live under this world's curse, but under Heavenly Law!

It's so important to remind yourself that God loves you and that Christ, through His blood, came and washed away all your sins.

So when the Bible says that He takes care of all your needs, gives you the desires of your heart, heals all your diseases, lights your path, pours His blessings out upon you, you need to put that as TRUTH before anyone of any circumstance that tries to tell you otherwise.

Nothing changed in our lives until we made God's Word the final authority. We chose not to entertain contradictions. Sometimes it just takes guts and boldness on your part to see your prayers and blessings manifest.

You can do it!

We are here standing with you!

Which promises in God's Word are you standing on? What verses in the Bible speak LIFE to you?

WEEK 3

A New Creation

*Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV*

Testimonies are manifested promises that are so encouraging for us and everyone around us. It's so very important that you see all that progress in your life and relationship with Jesus. When you receive Christ into your heart, there will be changes in your life and they will be for the better! We may go through trials and really hard times in life, but that's just it, God brings us through them. We don't stay in them!

In John 10:10 it says *"I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly"*. Choosing Christ means you desire to live and not die. Many times we hear testimonies of people who had destructive lifestyles and once they received Christ, their desires changed, so their lives changed!

This happens because your spirit is reborn and the changes in your spirit bring about changes to your mind and body. It's not about changing everything about you or changing to be like others. God created you to be unique and He knows what you like and don't like. He has blessed you with special gifts and talents and His will is for you to use them through Him.

When you give your life to Christ, give Him every part of you and wait on Him. Spend time in His Word. Spend time talking to Him. Get to know Him and trust that He will lead and guide you.

Be encouraged! Christ is on your side!

*Take a moment to think about how God has made you new!
Recognize how unique He's made you and praise Him for it!*

WEEK 4

Inheriting the Kingdom

Seek first the Kingdom of and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33 NKJV

RECAP: If you are still wondering if you are born again, or if you have Christ in your heart, or you just want to know for sure that you have made that commitment, here's a very simple prayer that you can pray:

Heavenly Father, I pray and ask Jesus to be the Lord over my life. I believe in my heart and say with my mouth that 'Jesus has been raised from the dead'. Jesus, come into my heart. I believe this moment that I am saved and I have been reborn. I am a child of Almighty God!

Now just thank God for making you His Child!

Now that you are confident... As a child of God, you have just inherited the Kingdom of God (Col 1:12). You have received this inheritance NOW! You have been delivered from darkness into the Kingdom (Luke 12:32)

It's important to know more about your Father! He has changed you and made you new through the power of His Spirit. The fun part is finding out what's yours and walking in it!

We had to step away from religion and focus on our own personal relationship with Jesus. When we did, we realized that we hadn't been listening to what God had been telling

us. The problem was that we were listening to what others were telling us. The result was unanswered prayers and we lived in frustration.

We, your friends at Today's Church, are here to stand in faith with you and to encourage you! It's important to get connected and stay connected!

Take time to speak to God daily; make it a habit! Soon, it will become something you just do regularly all throughout the day. Let Him fill you up and speak to you!

WEEK 5

A New Spirit

*Or do you now know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?
1 Corinthians 6:19 ESV*

Time for the Holy Spirit! When you receive Christ in your heart, He puts His Spirit on the inside of YOU!

When Jesus was here on earth, people didn't need the Holy Spirit because that had Jesus himself. He was teaching them and leading them physically. Scripture also says that Jesus sent His Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, to us when He died and rose again (John 16:7,12-15). 1 Corinthians 12:3 shows as well that those who have the Holy Spirit can truly say Jesus is Lord. Take some time to take a look at these verses for yourself!

We are not born again into a new life; new spiritual birth. We are body, soul and Spirit, so to receive Christ, we receive His Spirit! That means we are changed and set free from the inside out! The Spirit of LIFE is now inside you! It's why we should take care of our bodies as well as our souls (mind, will and emotions).

Speaking what the Word of God says, agrees with the Spirit of God. You will see miracles, changes, and supernatural things take place in and through you.

Be encouraged TODAY that you are not the same person you once were. You have God's Spirit on the inside of you.

Walk with your head up and know that what you need is already within you!

There is a hunger in the Spirit, but you physically have to pick up the Word and make time to connect. He's ready to speak to you!

Take time to read the Bible and recognize how your spirit is lifted. You may even have the desire to read more that you never have before!

WEEK 6

The Spirit Leads Us

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Isaiah 11:2 ESV

When I drove to church on Sunday, I felt I had to turn off the radio. Out loud, I said, *“Okay, God. You must want to speak to me”*. I didn’t hear anything but I felt led to pray a little in silence. Then all of a sudden, I was faced with a driver coming head on towards me! There was no one else around and after some honking and a little swerving, the driver moved to his lane.

I know that the Holy Spirit inside me was the one speaking to me and preparing me for this situation. I want you to recognize that the Holy Spirit is inside you always. He leads, guides, reveals and comforts you. See John 14:15-17.

“The ministry of the Holy Spirit is not only to impart the nature of God to the Spirit of man, but also to love in the new creature and reveal to him the exact knowledge of God” – Kenneth Copeland

God is now able to download His wisdom into our spirit. He does this through the Holy Spirit now inside of us. When you realize this, you’ll live different. Being sensitive to the Holy Spirit will prepare us for these kinds of surprises in our lives! I had a CHOICE to listen to the voice on the inside of me or brush it off and ignore it.

When you read the Bible, recognize that the Holy Spirit wants to bring revelations to you. It may come in the form of a scripture that jumps out at you. I encourage you to write it down and just think about it throughout the day. Write down your thoughts about it, too!

Sometimes your heart can really be tugged by a person or situation. I encourage you to take a moment to pray and ask God. You just might recognize yourself acting different than you normally would have!

Let the Holy Spirit teach you something new today!

WEEK 7

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
Isaiah 11:2 ESV

Last week we learned more about the Holy Spirit inside of us. This week is about the Holy Spirit coming *upon* us. It sounds the same, but they're actually different. I didn't always know much about the Holy Spirit coming upon us. I would hear people speaking in tongues and wonder what it was all about.

The Holy Spirit is on the inside of us, but His Power comes through the baptism of the Holy Spirit by asking God to pour out His Spirit on and through you. People who are filled with the Holy Spirit power can lay hands and pray with you for it (Acts 19:5-6).

To be honest, I thought this was a weird thing, but after people prayed with me for it to happen, I could feel inside that something wanted to come out. I wanted to pray and speak it out. Although it sounded weird at first and I was a little embarrassed to do it, the more I spent time praying on my own and letting it out the speaking in tongues came! I really wanted to speak in tongues after of the great testimonies coming from it. I also thought *"If God wanted this for me, then I want it!"*

I remember my former pastor talking about a time he was praying in tongues during a service. Not knowing what he was mumbling, he continued as he was being led in the Spirit. Later on, an Inuit group approached him after the service and asked my pastor how he knew to speak their language! He just laughed because he didn't know how to speak their language at all! God was speaking to them through him! Finally they all prayed with him and they invited Christ into their hearts.

Read Acts 1:4-5,8. The scriptures talk about being baptized by the Holy Ghost and receiving power. It's going to take the same power and anointing that was on Jesus for us to do the works God is calling us to do! (See Acts 10:38, Matthew 3:16-17, John 14:12, Luke 4:18-21 and Acts 5:12-16).

There is definitely a lot to say on the Holy Spirit, but continue to take time to pray and just thank God for revealing more of who is every day!

WEEK 8

The Ultimate Healer

The Lord will sustain him upon his sickbed. In his illness, you restore him to health. Psalm 41:3

You see, we've been empowered to carry out the works of God here on Earth! I know that sounds crazy or unbelievable, but that's what scares a lot of people. It can make them uncomfortable. Here at TC, we believe and have seen many awesome things first hand because of the Holy Spirit. The power of the Holy Spirit living in you can transform your life into evidence for the world to see that Jesus is alive (Acts 1:8)! They need to see Jesus, not just another religious group of people, events, or gatherings.

One night, we were having lifegroup, and I felt led to pray for a man in our group. The words "Fresh Anointing" kept ringing in my head. As I went to pray for that over him, I felt led to place my hand on his shoulder (which I normally don't do). He looked up after I had prayed for him and he said this shoulder was causing him pain for 6 months. The pain had left after I placed my hand on it! Healed!

That pain never returned! That never would have happened without the Holy Spirit power coming upon me at that time. I know that man well and I never knew he was even in pain. I never felt to pray for him before. As a result that night, I prayed in tongues and God, through the Holy Spirit, downloaded into my Spirit!

The Bible talks about us having the Holy Spirit inside of us, which is for us daily for our own personal growth. The Spirit that comes upon us is for others. There are springs of living water coming from us (John 7:38-39).

If you would like to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you can ask God for that and receive when you pray! You can also ask us to pray with you at church. We would LOVE to!

WEEK 9

The Power Package

*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?
1 Corinthians 6:19 ESV*

The Holy Spirit + The Word = The Power Package

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 says *“But as it is written, eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God”*.

Continue to read verse 11, 1 Corinthians 2:14 and 2:10. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would teach us all things (John 14:26).

There are so many questions we all have in life; things we deal with EVERYDAY! Thankfully, God had every answer we need. If we take time to read His Word and speak daily with Him, we will be led to the right answers. God has GREATNESS for YOU! That means He is going to fill you wisdom and fresh ideas!

God equips you to answer your problems and others' problems. He wants you to lead! He gives you what you need to rise above and succeed in life.

Our own strength is very limited. WE need God and His strength to carry us through this life. That doesn't mean we just lay back and say *'Oh Lord, let your will be done.'* It

means that we can get up every day and access the unlimited power of Almighty God. He will lead, but you have to walk!

Be encouraged today and be excited for life! Listen to the Holy Spirit! Blessings upon you!

If there is a scripture in the Bible that is speaking to your situation, speak it OUT! Believe it and walk in it!

WEEK 10

The Holy Spirit

But the helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. John 14:26 ESV

Now we can depend upon the Holy Spirit every day...for everything!

Romans 8:26-27 says, "So too the holy Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance. And He who searches the hearts of men knows what is in the mind of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit that intercedes and pleads before God in behalf of the saints according to and in harmony with God's will."

In John 14:16, Jesus called the Holy Spirit our comforter, which means counselor, helper, intercessor, advocate, strengthener and stand by. This means, God, in you, knows everything and gives you access to it ALL! We need Him! WE can have an awesome life because of Him!

Sometimes we meet people every day that just need some encouragement and the Holy Spirit gives us the words and the opportunity! Sunday preaching gets taken over by the Holy Spirit. That is why God's Spirit in you gets stirred up!

We can look for the big things, like healings, and on the spot miracles, etc. However, God also speaks to us every day in the foundational things like comforting us in our time of need and speaking peace into a situation.

Here's the main thing: It's not just for you! God wants to speak it through you!

I encourage you to spend time speaking and praying the Spirit. You will benefit from this! Expect great things from Him!

How does the Bible say that the Holy Spirit will help us? What is the fruit of the Spirit? (Hint: Galatians 5:22-23)

WEEK 11

Trust in His Promises

Trust in the Lord your God with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV

According to 2 Corinthians 5:17, you became a new creature – a new creation, when you made Jesus the Lord of your life! In the Spirit realm, you became born of God. The new birth that took place was inside your spirit. You were born of the Spirit of God and placed in Christ Jesus! (Eph 1:10-13). There are many scriptures in the Bible that speak about us being in Christ and they are SO important because once you realize that these are for YOU, you will see your inheritance! *Everything the Word says about being in Christ, belongs to YOU!*

The hardest part of knowing all these wonderful things that are ours in Christ, is convincing your mind! Most of us were not brought up with this mindset. This is a choice you have to make. God's Word is final and all the darkness in the world cannot change the Word of God!

God only has GOOD things in store for you TODAY!

CHALLENGE: Create a search online for the words "In Christ" in the Bible. Read the scriptures that come up. You will be so encouraged and excited about your life "In Christ". Write them down and read them often. When your mind is convinced, then your whole world changes! Life is Good!

WEEK 12

Speak Life!

Death and Life are in the power of the tongue; and they that love it shall eat of its fruit thereof. Proverbs 18:21

You can be sure that whatever the Word says about being "in Christ" belongs to you because you are in Christ Jesus. This also means you are the "saved" because according to Romans 10:9: *"You have confessed with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead"*

You are also the "delivered" according to Colossians 1:13. God delivered you from the power of darkness and has translated you into the Kingdom of His dear Son. The Word of God will affect your thinking, believing, actions and speech. At TC, we know how that Word has power over our lives. If you speak these words out loud regularly, you will rise up with new strength, courage, hope and faith to believe that with God, NOTHING is IMPOSSIBLE! You will see VICTORY!

Don't let your limitations and small thinking determine your future! It's time to RISE UP and DREAM BIG!

START TO DREAM TODAY!!

If God is for you, then NOTHING can be against you! Keep persevering and keep your head up! NEVER give up!

What are your dreams and goals? What are the visions you have for your life? What would you love to do or be? Make a list of all the things you'd like to do or accomplish:

WEEK 13

Power is in YOU!

*The Spirit of God who raised Christ from the dead lives in You.
Romans 8:11 NIV*

This is a great revelation today:

Jesus said He was sent to preach deliverance to the captives (Luke 4:18). All power that it takes to save, heal and deliver any human being, came to this Earth! When Jesus walked into a place, the power was there to heal the people because the power was within Him.

John 14:10 says that the Father dwells in Him does the work, so if you are in Christ, then the power is also in YOU!

Because you are in Christ Jesus, you can live like Him, talk like Him, and act like Him. The bible says that God sent Jesus that He might become the firstborn of the brethren (Rom 8:29). God planted seed of His Son, Jesus, in order to get a harvest. He reaps that harvest through us as new souls are added to the Kingdom of God.

It's absolutely awesome to know that the Power is in us and it flows out of us! I can pray and lay hands on people and expect healings! Today's church expects people to come and be healed, set free, and empowered by God to go out and do the same for others. We must share these awesome promises that Christ is doing in and through us!

People come to the saving Grace of God by Jesus working through us wherever we go! Do not be discouraged! We will meet some opposition, but know that God has the final say and victory! Be strengthened and encouraged today! Strengthen and encourage others, as well!

Knowing that Christ's power is within us, what are some ways we can live, talk and act like Christ?

WEEK 14

Abide in Him

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you shall ask what you will and it shall be done unto you. John 15:7 NKJV

We abide in Jesus. When we made Jesus our Lord, we became one Spirit with Him. God sees us in Jesus! We are then called 'joint heirs' with Jesus!

The Bible also says that we are now holy and blameless in Him in love (Eph 1:4), we are no longer without hope (Eph 2:12) and we have been accepted in the beloved (Eph 1:6).

See, a lot of the time, we do hear people say they are unworthy and they live their lives with that heaviness upon them. However, the Bible clearly says that may have been true while you were a sinner, but it all CHANGED when you got saved!

Jesus died for YOU! Now you live in Him and He has made you worthy! You were not worthy before, but He died for you anyways! HE LOVES YOU!

Sometimes people fall into sin again after accepting Christ, but all they have to do is repent and get rid of that sin! God is faithful to forgive us! Don't run from God if you sin-run to him! (1 John 1:9, 1 Cor 15:34)

The devil wants you to believe that sin separates you from God. He wants you to believe that you'll fall out of God's

plan and become unworthy again. Let me tell you that NOTHING can separate you from the love of God! Sin can set up a road block, trip and confuse you, but once you repent and turn away from it, God says He will remember your sin no more, so you shouldn't either! Get back on the path and live your life with victory in mind! You are in Christ and He is in YOU!

Are there some areas in your life where you can let go and let God? Lift them up to Him and declare your victory!

WEEK 15

Sharing Christ

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom He gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. Colossians 3:16 NLT

We want to encourage you to *grow your Faith always!* Stay connected with others of LIKE FAITH! Hang around those who may have more faith than you do. Pray with those that will STAND IN FAITH with you and NOT WAIVER!

- Come to services for spiritual growth, fellowship and encourage others!
- Get involved in a life group and ministry!
- Pray continually and pray for others!

The love of the Father is for US and EVERYONE around us! Share the Good News of Jesus!

How would you like to stay connected? Which ministry or life group would you like to be a part of? We encourage you to be a partner here at Today's Church and get involved in setting others free like you have been set free!



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