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Your
New Life!

...anyone who belongs to
Christ has become
a *new person.*

2 Corinthians 5:17



You have a
New Life!

...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

2 Corinthians 5:17

A NEW LIFE

You have a new life! That's the promise of God to everybody who is a true follower of Jesus Christ. You are still you—but something wonderful has begun in your heart. Christ is in you and you are in Christ.

What's a new Christian supposed to feel, you may ask? The answer is: many things! Joy, confusion, fear, excitement,₃



A life filled with
the **POWER** and
presence of God!

—feelings come and go, but God’s promise is that He will be with you regardless of what you feel. “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5).

Imagine this: God and all His power living inside “regular folks,” including you, forever. That’s the work of the Holy Spirit, who fills His followers and empowers them. Jesus said that He and His Father “will come and make our home” in them (John 14:23). He has made His home in you!

Not only has Jesus joined you to

Himself, He has joined you to every other Christian. The Bible calls those of us who are believers “the body of Christ” (1 Corinthians 12:27). Jesus chooses to live in His followers and, through them, demonstrates His love to the world.

God’s plan for you is unique. He’s not out to make clones. His strategy is to form you into the best you possible—a desire He’s had since the world began (Ephesians 1:4).

GOD’S PLAN for you
is *unique*.



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a newborn baby's hand. The adult's hand is on the left, and the baby's hand is on the right. The baby's hand is very small and delicate, with tiny fingers. The adult's hand is larger and more textured. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

Remember the
last time you saw
a newborn baby?

GROWING LIKE A CHILD

Many similarities exist between physical birth and your spiritual beginning. A baby enters into the world through the birth process—a new existence very different from life in the womb. In the same way, those who enter into Christ's Kingdom are reborn spiritually and they will never be the same again. Their new life connects them with God, convicts them of sin and gives them a desire for God's will to be done.

Think of the family celebration that



Beginning your
journey in this
new life.

surrounds the birth of a baby. In that group, the individual who understands the least about the true significance of the new arrival is—the new arrival!

In the same way, as a beginner on your journey, you can only understand a fraction of what God's new life means. And that's just fine. God is happy to show you over your lifetime all He did for you.

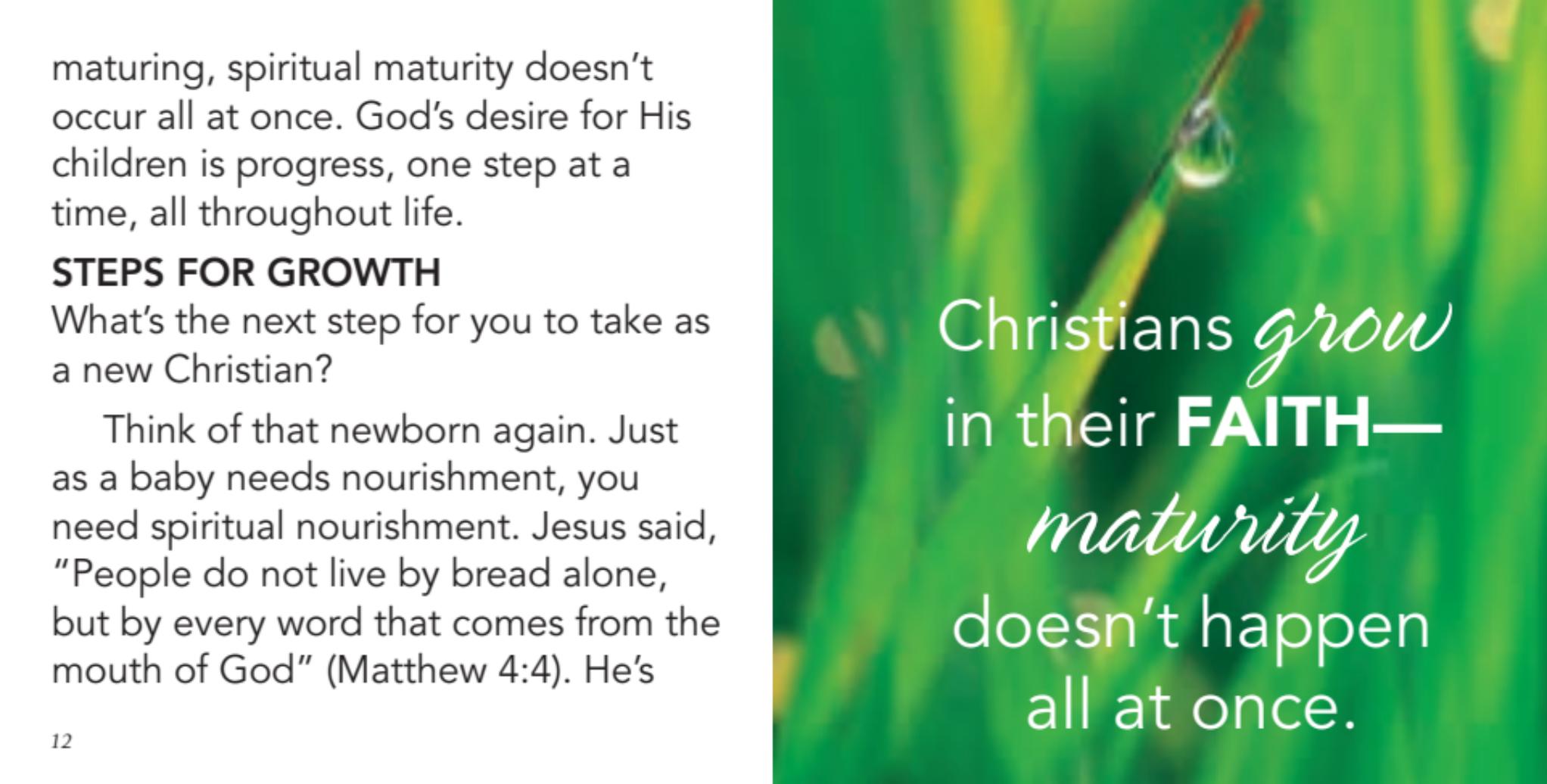
Of course, if a baby doesn't grow, something is dreadfully wrong. New Christians also must grow in their faith. In God's wisdom, just like our physical

maturing, spiritual maturity doesn't occur all at once. God's desire for His children is progress, one step at a time, all throughout life.

STEPS FOR GROWTH

What's the next step for you to take as a new Christian?

Think of that newborn again. Just as a baby needs nourishment, you need spiritual nourishment. Jesus said, "People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). He's



Christians *grow*
in their **FAITH—**
maturity
doesn't happen
all at once.

referring to the Bible. It's your spiritual food, and it will help you grow if you read and study it—a little bit every day, if possible (Hebrews 4:12).

The Bible reveals how much God loves us. Its commands and principles are God's signposts to guide us (Psalm 119:105). He has also placed within us a "Divine Interpreter"—the Holy Spirit—who helps us understand God's Word (John 16:13–14; 1 Corinthians 2:10–14) and comforts us in adversity (John 14:16–18).

¹⁴ As babies grow, they learn to talk



His Spirit
helps us understand
His Word

A red canoe is positioned in the lower-left foreground on a dark, pebbly shore. The background features a calm lake reflecting the warm, orange and red hues of a sunset sky. Silhouetted hills are visible in the distance under the twilight sky.

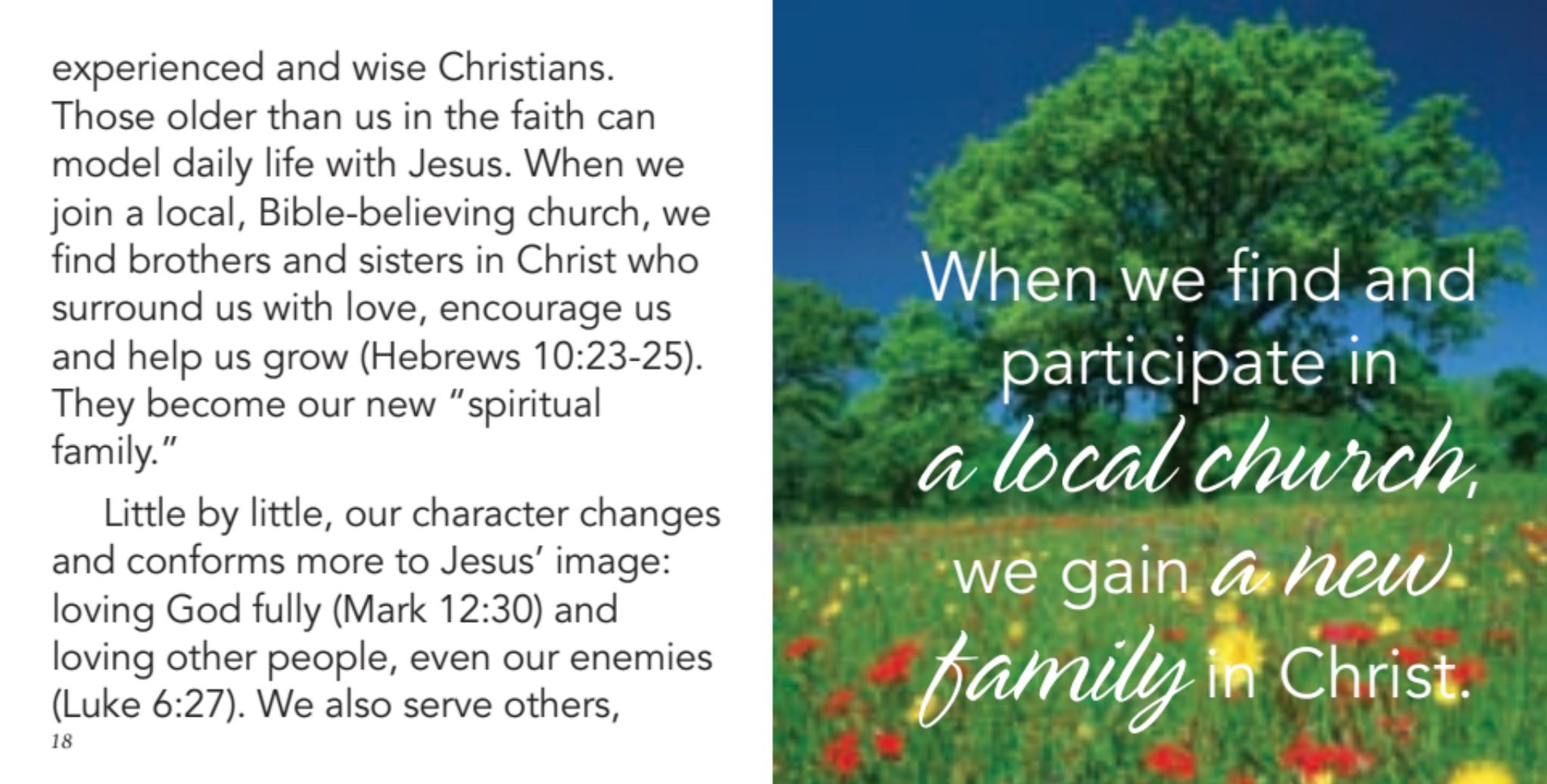
When we talk to God,
we learn to *trust*
Him instead of
leaning on our own
understanding.

and begin to relate to their parents. We, too, must get to know our heavenly Father and talk to Him regularly through prayer (1 John 5:14-15). Sometimes we pray alone, and sometimes with others—in small groups as well as large gatherings. When we talk to God, we learn to trust Him instead of leaning on our own limited understanding (Proverbs 3:5). Connecting with God through prayer transforms us.

As a child learns through watching grown-ups, we need to get alongside

experienced and wise Christians. Those older than us in the faith can model daily life with Jesus. When we join a local, Bible-believing church, we find brothers and sisters in Christ who surround us with love, encourage us and help us grow (Hebrews 10:23-25). They become our new "spiritual family."

Little by little, our character changes and conforms more to Jesus' image: loving God fully (Mark 12:30) and loving other people, even our enemies (Luke 6:27). We also serve others,



When we find and
participate in
a local church,
we gain *a new*
family in Christ.

reaching out to the poor, widows, and orphans—truly anyone who needs our help (Proverbs 29:7; James 1:27).

FALLING DOWN

One of the most important events in any child's life is taking those first, halting steps. Understandably, toddlers are unsteady. But in time, walking becomes as natural as, well, walking!

Yet even an adult will likely stumble now and then. Likewise, no matter how "grown up" you are spiritually, you may fall. Your struggle with sin will never be over. Jesus told us, "In this world you

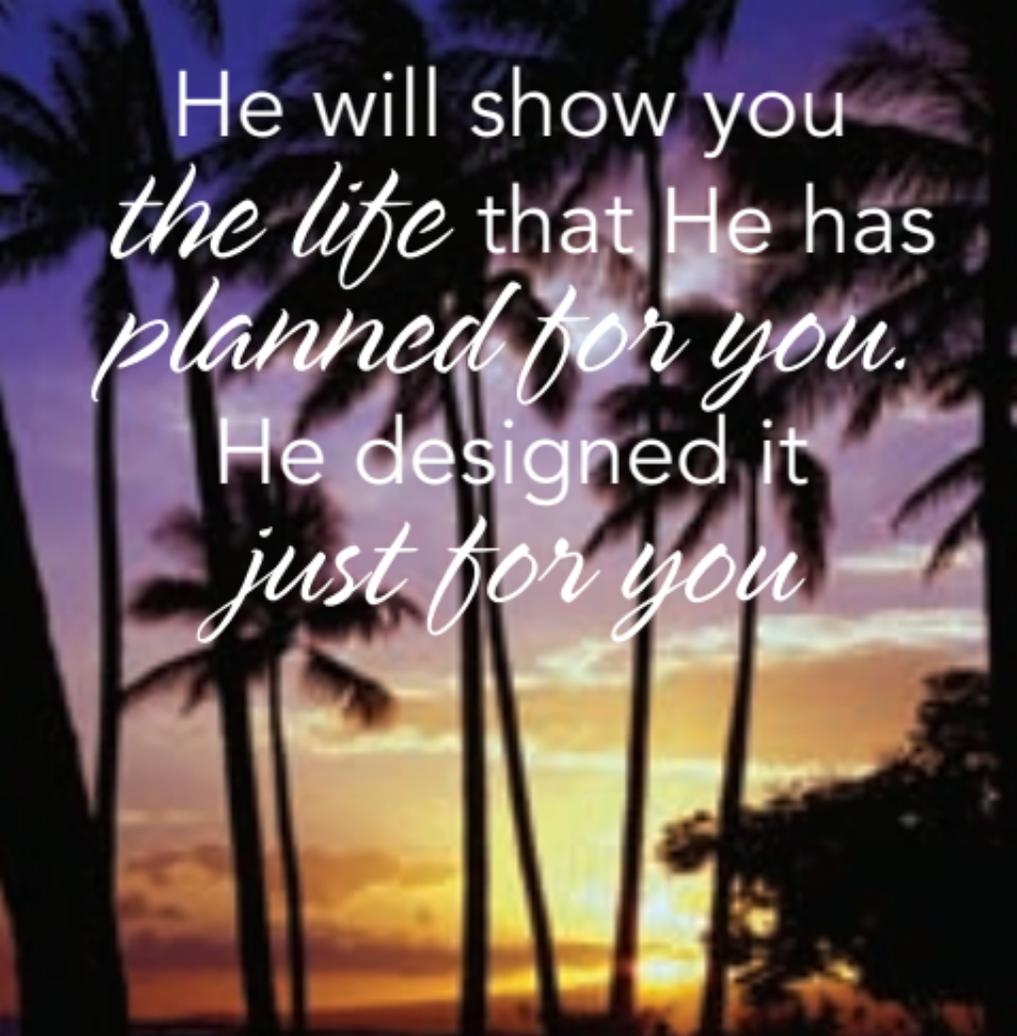


God helps us shed
old habits and patterns
of sin, so we become
more like him.

will have trouble.” (John 16:33). Sins and problems don’t go away, and we will make wrong choices. God wants us to avoid sin—not because He dislikes “fun,” but because sin eventually destroys. When we stumble, God’s Word promises, “...if anyone does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ—the Righteous One.” (1 John 2:1-2). We are assured of His forgiveness and grace. “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1).

A person is seen in a canoe on a calm lake at dusk. The sky is a deep blue, and the background is filled with dark evergreen trees. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

He knows we will sometimes make the *wrong choices* and covers our sins through Christ.



He will show you
*the life that He has
planned for you.*

He designed it
just for you

THE AMAZING GIFTS OF GOD

Jesus gave you so much when you accepted His love and forgiveness. As you grow, He'll show you more of what He's planned for you (Jeremiah 29:11). He's handcrafted a fruitful, meaningful life—one with purpose and fulfillment (Ephesians 2:10). Though hardships come, God can help you withstand them. He'll work through the hardships to help you grow and depend more on Him (Romans 8:28). You can be full of hope even when everything around you is dark—exactly like Jesus.



A life with God
now and for eternity

Stay on the path God has set before you. Read the Bible. Pray. Meet with other believers. Serve God and others. Joy will blossom and continue to grow throughout your life's journey. And in heaven, you will find that the blessings have just begun!

This is the new life God gave you. It's the new life you're growing into. And, it is something to truly celebrate this day!

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