



A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS

**A NEW
ME,
NOW
WHAT?**

JOSE NIETO JR

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info@josenietojr.com

To the Divine Love that transformed my life,

This book is dedicated to the One who called me out of darkness into His marvelous light, to the lover of my soul, my Lord Jesus Christ, whose love and guidance have been the bedrock of my journey - this is a testament to Your unending grace, mercy, and lovingkindness. My King! I love You!

To my wife Janette, bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh, who has walked this path with me, your support and faith have been my strength. This journey is not just mine but ours, shared in every word written and every lesson learned. I love you!

And to you, the reader, who seeks light in times of darkness, may these pages serve as a beacon of hope and a reminder that you are never alone in your journey.

This book is a tribute to the transformative power of faith and the unbreakable bond between a soul and its Creator. May you encounter His presence as you read and apply this guide and may your life never be the same in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ - Messiah Yeshua!

Your Servant,

Jose Nieto Jr.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY OF GOD!

Hey, it's José here. Deciding to follow Jesus Christ was—and still is—the most important decision I've ever made. This isn't just picking a new hobby or lifestyle; it's stepping into an entirely new life. When I confessed Jesus as Lord, believed in my heart that God raised Him from the dead, and truly repented of my sins, something miraculous happened: I became a new creation (“For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved...”).

In that moment, I was born again in the Spirit—snatched out of darkness and placed into the Kingdom of God's beloved Son (“He rescued us from the domain of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son whom He loves...”).

In this book, I'm simply sharing what I wish someone had handed me when I first started walking with Christ. You'll find practical steps that show how the Holy Spirit began to lead me—step by step—after that life-changing encounter.

My hope is that this guide will help you grasp your new birth in Christ and walk alongside you in the exciting journey of discipleship. Inside, you'll discover essential biblical principles, insights for spiritual growth, and everyday steps to deepen your relationship with Jesus.

Above all, keep your eyes on Jesus. He is the center of it all—the one who saves, redeems, and invites us into this incredible adventure. As He Himself declared, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me”.

May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you as you embrace your new life in Christ!

“I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me”.





UNDERSTANDING YOUR NEW BIRTH

A Spiritual Transformation, Jesus taught that to enter the Kingdom of God, you must be born again:

“Jesus answered him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’”

Your birth is now of God:

“They were born not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

This “new birth” is not merely symbolic; it’s a real change in your heart and spirit. Through Christ’s sacrifice, you are set free from sin, and the Holy Spirit now dwells in you.

From Darkness to Light, The Bible describes those who do not know Christ as walking in darkness:

“For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),”

When you received Jesus, you stepped out of the kingdom of darkness and into His marvelous light—you received the very life of Christ:

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were ‘not a people,’ but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

This means your spiritual eyes are open, and you can now discern and walk in the ways of God. You are part of God’s family—you are in the Kingdom of God.

Your Identity Has Changed, Listen: once you’re born again, your identity does a total 180°—you’re no longer defined by your past mistakes or sins. It doesn’t matter what anyone says or how people might distance themselves when they hear you’re following Christ—you’re now a child of God!

“But whoever did receive Him, those trusting in His name, to these He gave the right to become children of God.”

That truth is your new foundation. This identity—child of the Father—locks you into fellowship with God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. That’s who you are now. Keep this at the center of everything you do.

Why This Matters, Understanding your new birth shapes your perspective on life, relationships, and purpose. You are called to walk in righteousness and bear fruit that reflects the nature of Christ. There are works of unrighteousness and works of righteousness:

“Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you... those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

Many will not agree with the change your relationship with Jesus brings. You may lose friends and even family members, but over time they will begin to understand if you remain steadfast in this new journey.

When Jesus walked the earth, many encountered Him and said “Yes,” following Him no matter what. But just as many made excuses for why they couldn’t follow. If you’re reading this, you’ve confessed Christ, become His follower, and now have new life in Him. You did not enter a religious practice or cult; you entered into a covenant relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ!

What has happened to you is so real. You will see how Satan—and the people he works through—will try to talk you out of it and convince you that it isn’t real. But you will continue to believe in Him no matter what!

And He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.





YOU ARE NOW BORN AGAIN

A Fresh Start, Being “born again” means you have a clean slate before God:

“Therefore if anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new..”

Your old life was crucified with Christ, and now you live by faith in the Son of God:

“and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. And the life I now live in the body, I live by trusting in the Son of God—who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

Sealed with the Holy Spirit, At the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in you:

“After you heard the message of truth—the good news of your salvation—and when you put your trust in Him, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit. He is the guarantee of our inheritance, until the redemption of His possession—to His glorious praise!”

He is your Comforter, Guide, and Teacher, leading you into all truth:

“But when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; but whatever He hears, He will tell you. And He will declare to you the things that are to come...”

Depend on the Holy Spirit to draw you closer to God. Jesus promised He would not leave you comfortless but would ask the Father to send the Spirit to help you. Remember, repentance isn’t a one-time event—it’s a lifestyle. As you grow, the Holy Spirit will reveal areas in your life that need change. Continual repentance keeps you aligned with God’s will.

Living by Grace, You are saved by grace through faith—nothing you do can earn God’s love or salvation; He gives it freely:

“For by grace you have been saved through faith—and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God...”

Rest in His grace. Let it empower you to live a life that pleases Him, grow spiritually, and embrace holiness

THE SECRET PLACE & PRAYER

The Importance of Intimacy with God, Jesus often withdrew to solitary places to pray. He modeled the necessity of spending time alone with God. This “secret place” is where your relationship with Him deepens. He instructs us to do the same. He commanded us to go into our closet and call unto God.

“But you, when you pray, go into your inner room; and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father, who sees in secret, shall reward you.”

This is how my journey began even before I joined a church or ministry. I read the Word of God, then I prayed to the God of the Word. This provoked me to willingly want and desire to meet with God every morning and every night, it was on a consistent basis that I could not let go of! The more I read about God, the more I experienced and encountered God in my time of prayer! We cannot pray to a God we do not know anything about, read His Word, then Go into a private, quiet place and talk to Him.

Develop a Prayer Life, Prayer is simply communicating with God. There are many forms — adoration, confession, thanksgiving, , and supplication — but all are ways to build intimacy. Start your day seeking Him, and maintain an ongoing conversation throughout.

Personal Devotion and Scripture Study, Combine prayer with reading the Bible. The Holy Spirit illuminates God’s Word, helping you understand and apply it.

“All Scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for restoration, and for training in righteousness, so that the person belonging to God may be capable, fully equipped for every good deed.”

Journaling your thoughts can also help you process and remember God’s revelations and what He is saying to you though His Word and remember, when you seek God in the secret place, expect to experience His presence and hear His voice.

*“But you, when you pray, go into your inner room;
and when you have shut your door, pray to your
Father who is in secret. And your Father, who sees
in secret, shall reward you.”*





WATER BAPTISM

Symbol of Your New Life, Water baptism is an outward sign of an inward reality:

“Or do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death—in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

When you go under the water, it symbolizes your old life being buried with Christ; when you come out, you rise to walk in the new life He has given you. It is a life in Him—apart from Him there is no life!

Following Jesus’ Example, Jesus Himself was baptized:

“Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. But John tried to prevent Him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’ Then he consented. When Jesus had been baptized, He went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’”

He instructed His followers to baptize new disciples and teach them to observe His commands. By being baptized, you obey His command and publicly declare your faith.

Obedience to Christ, Baptism is an act of obedience. It doesn’t save you—faith in Jesus does that—but it demonstrates your commitment to follow Him. It’s a powerful testimony to others and a significant milestone in your spiritual journey. Your church leaders or mentors will guide you through the baptism process. Prepare your heart in prayer, thank God for your new life, and celebrate the day as a marker of your transformation in Christ.

***“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and the
Son and the Holy Spirit”***

THE CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

What Is Discipleship? Discipleship means becoming a student and follower of Jesus. It involves learning His ways, embracing His teachings, obeying His commands, and imitating His character—doing as He did and even greater things:

“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher.”

Deny Yourself and Follow Him, Jesus said:

“If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.”

This call requires turning from selfish ways and embracing His will, no matter the cost. You will face challenges—many who encountered Jesus made excuses for why they couldn’t follow Him. Don’t let anything or anyone—even family—keep you from following Jesus!

Counting the Cost, Genuine discipleship involves sacrifice. You may face rejection, persecution, or misunderstanding. But remember Jesus’ promise of eternal reward and His abiding presence:

“Whoever does not carry his own cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple.”

“For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ... so that, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him”

Discipleship doesn’t end with a class or ceremony; it’s a lifelong process of becoming more like Christ:

“For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son...”

“Whoever does not carry his own cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple.”





EMBRACING THE FIRST AND SECOND COMMANDMENTS

The Greatest Commandments, Jesus summarized all the Law and the Prophets in two commandments:

“And He said to him, ““You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Before coming to Christ, I never thought I could truly love or be loved. The love I’ve encountered—and now live by—has revolutionized my entire existence!

Loving God Wholeheartedly, To love God is to treasure Him above all else. This love grows as you spend time in prayer, worship, and God’s Word. Ask the Holy Spirit to stir up greater affection for God in your heart, for it is the Holy Spirit who pours God’s love into us:

“And hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” (Romans 5:5)

Loving Your Neighbor, Loving others is a natural outflow of loving God. It means showing kindness, compassion, and forgiveness—even to those who hurt you. True Christian love reflects the sacrificial love Jesus showed on the cross.

What Is Love?

God’s Word tells us exactly what love is:

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.”

This is the love we’re called to live out every day—rooted in Jesus, empowered by the Spirit, and displayed to a watching world.

THE REALITY OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Understanding the Battle, As a new believer, you have an invisible enemy —Satan—who wants to draw you back into sin and spiritual darkness. He uses his demonic forces to oppose God’s purposes:

“Stay alert! Watch out! Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, searching for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, steadfast in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brothers and sisters throughout the world.”

Recognize that the Christian life is a battleground—especially in the mind. Do not give in to every thought that comes your way. Stop and consider what it’s saying and where it’s coming from, and confirm it through God’s Word.

Equipped with God’s Armor

Ephesians 6:10–18 describes the “armor of God” you can put on daily:

- **Belt of truth**
- **Breastplate of righteousness**
- **Shoes of the gospel of peace**
- **Shield of faith**
- **Helmet of salvation**
- **Sword of the Spirit** (the Word of God)

Clothe yourself in this armor by remaining steadfast in Scripture reading and prayer.

The Power of the Word and Prayer, Jesus overcame the devil’s temptations by quoting Scripture:

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil... When the tempter came to Him, he said, ‘If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’ But He replied, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”’ ... Then the devil took Him to the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said, ‘If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down; for it is written, “He will command His angels concerning You,” and “On their hands they will bear You up, so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.”’ Jesus said to him, ‘Again it is written, “You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.”’ ... Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and said,





‘All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Go away, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.”’ Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.”

Study God’s Word, hide it in your heart, and use it to resist the enemy. Prayer is also a potent weapon that breaks strongholds and fortifies your faith. Jesus instructs us to watch and pray so we do not enter into temptation.

Victory Through Christ, Though spiritual warfare is real, you need not fear. Jesus has already triumphed over all powers and authorities:

“He wiped out the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. He canceled it by nailing it to the cross. After disarming the rulers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

You only need to abide in Him, stand firm in faith, and resist Satan—he will flee from you!

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.”

“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives even in the face of death.”

PERSEVERANCE AND ENDURANCE

Trials & Sufferings Will Come, The Christian life is marked by trials and suffering:

“Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect work, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

These challenges are opportunities to grow in character, faith, and reliance on God. Don’t be surprised when they come—instead, rejoice!

“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings...”

We Learn Obedience Through Suffering, You might flinch at the thought, but suffering isn’t God’s punishment—it’s His classroom. Every time you stumble, face hardship, or wrestle with pain, you’re being shaped into someone who trusts and obeys Him more deeply. Remember the last time you made a big mistake—maybe you ignored wise counsel or chased a fleeting pleasure—and learned the hard way that it led to hurt? That lesson stuck because it cost you something. In the same way, God uses our struggles to teach us lasting obedience:

“Although He was a Son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.”

Pressing On in Faith, The Apostle Paul likened the Christian life to a race. To finish well, you must run with endurance, fixing your eyes on Jesus and keeping your eternal reward in view. Trials can refine and purify our faith and draw us closer to God’s heart. Lean on the Holy Spirit, who comforts you in times of weakness and pain. Regular prayer and fellowship with other believers—whether through church services, ministries, small groups, or discipleship relationships—they all provide the encouragement and accountability you need to persevere.

“He learned obedience through what He suffered”





BUILDING A STRONG SPIRITUAL FOUNDATION

Rooted in the Word, The Bible is God’s blueprint for living. Study it daily—meditate on it, memorize key verses, and apply its truths to your life:

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.”

Start by reading Genesis, then the Gospels (Matthew through John), and afterward work through the entire Bible to see how God’s redemptive story unfolds. To walk and grow in this new life, you must know God’s Word—it guides you into His perfect will.

Prayer and Worship

Cultivate a consistent daily prayer life filled with thanksgiving and praise. Prayer and worship draw you closer to God and strengthen your faith. As a born-again believer, you worship God in spirit and truth. Ensure the music you choose exalts Him rather than merely feeding emotional comfort—worship is about praising God alone. You can also worship with others:

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

Guarding and Renewing Your Mind

Your mind is a spiritual battlefield. Renew it by focusing on what is pure, honorable, and praiseworthy:

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Don’t act on every thought that enters your mind. Take your thoughts captive and filter them through Scripture, rejecting anything that contradicts God’s truth.

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path!”

NEXT STEPS FOR GROWTH

Regular Fellowship, Join a Bible-believing, Spirit-led ministry where you can learn, serve, and grow. Ministry isn't just a building or a meeting place; it's a community of believers whose goal is to make disciples. Spiritual growth does not happen in isolation. Build relationships with other Christians who will encourage, correct, and inspire you on your faith journey.

Read Your Bible—It Will Renew Your Mind, God calls us to immerse ourselves in His Word. As we study the Bible, we not only show our dedication to Him but also renew our minds and begin to walk as He did:

“But whoever keeps His word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk in the same way in which He walked.”

“Let us then walk properly, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.”

This deep, transformative process engraves His teachings in our hearts, shaping us into the individuals He desires us to be. Before Christ, our minds knew only the ways of this world.

Accountability and Mentorship, Seek out mature Christians who can mentor you. Accountability, relationships help you stay on track, address struggles, and deepen your walk with Christ. They will also commit to praying for you daily!

Discover Your Spiritual Gifts—Service & Workings

Every believer is given spiritual gifts to serve and build up the Body of Christ:

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”





LIVING OUT YOUR NEW IDENTITY

A Child of God, You are no longer defined by your past sins or failures. Your identity is rooted in Christ:

“For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. And the life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God—who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

Live with confidence, knowing you are loved and accepted by God. Remove from your life anyone who discourages you from living for Christ or tries to lead you back into the lifestyle God has called you out of.

Walk in the Spirit, Cultivate a lifestyle of walking in the Spirit by being sensitive to His leading, turning away from sin, and practicing spiritual disciplines:

“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not fulfill the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh—these are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”

Bear Fruit, Your new identity in Christ should produce fruit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control; against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying one another.”

These traits reflect Jesus’ nature in you.

Grow in Holiness, Holiness means being set apart for God’s purposes. Ask the Holy Spirit to purify your heart and teach you to live in a way that pleases God.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

The Great Commission, Jesus commanded His followers to “go and make disciples of all nations”:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Sharing the gospel is part of your new identity in Christ. It’s OK to tell anyone and everyone about your encounter with Jesus—you don’t need anyone’s permission. **Share your testimony!**

Living the Gospel, Evangelism isn’t just about words; it’s about a lifestyle. Let your transformed life shine as proof of God’s power and grace:

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

You are now the light of the world. Don’t hide the light of Christ within you—let people know why they too should believe in Jesus!

Boldness Through the Holy Spirit, The Holy Spirit empowers you to be a witness:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Pray for boldness and for open doors to share your faith. Trust the Spirit to guide your words. Stay yielded and surrendered to His leading.

Practical Evangelism, Start with those closest to you—friends, family, coworkers. Share what Christ has done in your life and offer to pray for them. Be patient, loving, and genuine, and leave the results to God.

Remember, in the body of Christ, some plant and some water, but it is God who gives the increase!





THE BLOOD OF JESUS

Redemption Through the Blood, The Bible teaches that “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins”. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the penalty for our sins once and for all:

“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.”

Cleansed and Made Righteous, The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all unrighteousness:

“But if we walk in the light, as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

This means you stand before God without guilt or shame, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. His blood also cleanses our conscience from dead works:

“How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

That inner sense of right and wrong—the voice guiding you toward righteousness—is empowered by His purifying sacrifice.

Overcoming by the Blood and Testimony, Believers overcome the enemy “by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony”:

“And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.”

Keep sharing what Jesus has done in your life and trust in His finished work.

Continual Access to God, Because of Jesus’ shed blood, you have bold access to the Father’s throne of grace:

“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

When you stumble, repent quickly and remember that Jesus’ blood is sufficient to restore and to cleanse you!

CONCLUSION

Your journey with Jesus is only just beginning. As a new creation, you are now part of God's eternal Kingdom, called to follow His ways and become more like Christ each day. This path will include challenges, suffering, and spiritual battles—but it will also be filled with abundant joy, hope, and the steadfast love of God.

Continue to prioritize discipleship:

- **Stay** in the Secret Place.
- **Stay rooted** in the Word.
- **Remain** steadfast in prayer.
- **Abide** in fellowship with other believers.
- **Press on** in faith during trials.
- **Share** the gospel whenever you can.

May this guide serve as a foundational resource, but never forget that your ultimate source of life and truth is Jesus Christ Himself. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.

Rely on the Holy Spirit, walk in obedience, and let your life be a beacon of God's transforming grace in this world.

Welcome to a new life in Christ—one of purpose, power, and eternal significance. You are now a disciple of Jesus, called to follow Him wholeheartedly, living each day under His Lordship and for His glory. May the Lord bless you and keep you, and may you continually grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

BONUS - WILL I STILL SUFFER NOW AS A CHRISTIAN?

Suffering is a universal human experience. However, Scripture teaches us there is a holy purpose in the trials we endure when we place our trust in Jesus Christ. In 1 Peter 4, the apostle Peter calls believers to embrace suffering with the same mindset Christ had, knowing that through it, we draw closer to God, break the power of sin in our lives, and bring glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

This book unpacks Peter's message to Christians who face insults, opposition, and persecution. From shaping our attitudes to stirring us to action, the lessons of 1 Peter 4 challenge us to stand firm in faith, let go of our old ways, and allow God to refine us.

THE MIND OF CHRIST IN SUFFERING

“Since Christ suffered and underwent pain, you must have the same attitude he did; you must be ready to suffer, too.”

Christ's Willingness: Jesus chose the path of the cross, setting an example for us. He was not shocked by suffering; He expected it.

Our Readiness: We are called to prepare ourselves mentally and spiritually for hardship. Suffering for righteousness refines our character.

Victory Over Sin: Peter notes that when our bodies suffer for doing right, sin loses its hold. Choosing Christ over comfort means freedom from sin's power.

“YOUR CONTINUE TO”, MUST GROW

Adopt a kingdom mindset: Focus on eternal gains over immediate relief. Ask God for courage to face trials without giving in to resentment or fear.

BREAKING FROM SINFUL HABITS

“You have had enough in the past of the evil things the godless enjoy... Of course, your former friends will be very surprised when you don't eagerly join them anymore...”

A New Lifestyle: Coming to Christ means leaving behind former ungodly behaviors—partying, lust, or anything that takes God’s place in our hearts.

Surprise and Scorn: Friends or family may mock the changes in our lives, but remember we now live to please God, not people.

Holiness vs. Popularity: True discipleship often costs us acceptance in certain circles, but we gain a deeper walk with Jesus.

Application: Examine areas of life still tied to old habits or peer pressure. Seek God’s strength to stand firm when others ridicule your faith.

GOD’S RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT

“They must face the Judge of all, living and dead; they will be punished for the way they have lived.”

God’s Authority: He is the Judge over both the living and the dead, and His judgment is always just.

Accountability: Each person will answer for their actions. Those who scorn believers and refuse Christ will not escape judgment.

Hope for All: Peter reminds us the Good News was preached so that even those who have died could share in God’s life—pointing to the power of the gospel for everyone.

Application: Keep an eternal perspective: God sees and rewards faithfulness. Trust God’s justice instead of taking revenge (Romans 12:19).

LIVING WITH URGENCY

“The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore be earnest, thoughtful men of prayer.”

Eternal Timetable: No one knows the exact time of Christ’s return, but we live ready for it, awake to spiritual realities.

Serious Prayer: Recognize the times we live in; pray with focus and diligence.

Clarity of Mind: Avoid distractions that dull spiritual sensitivity; stay alert in prayer and service.

Application: Set aside daily time for earnest prayer. Let the urgency of Christ’s return motivate your devotion and purity.

DEEP LOVE AND HOSPITALITY

“Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love makes up for many of your faults. Cheerfully share your home...”

Primacy of Love: Love is the hallmark of true Christian living. It covers offenses and keeps relationships healthy.

Practical Hospitality: Opening your home, sharing meals, and providing for needs display God’s grace in a tangible way.

Cheerful Service: Heart attitude matters to God. Serve others with genuine joy.

Application: Look for ways to tangibly show kindness, especially to those in need. Practice empathy and openness, welcoming people into your space and life.

USING YOUR GIFTS FOR GOD’S GLORY

“God has given each of you some special abilities... Are you called to preach? Then preach as though God himself were speaking through you...”

Diverse Gifts: Each believer is uniquely equipped with spiritual gifts—teaching, serving, encouraging, leading, etc.

Purpose of Gifts: We use them to strengthen the Church and help others, not to build our own egos.

Empowered Service: Rely on God’s strength, not your own, so He receives glory.

Application: Identify your spiritual gifts and put them to work for God. Serve wholeheartedly, trusting God for energy and wisdom.

EMBRACE THE FIRE

“Don’t be bewildered or surprised when you go through the fiery trials... Instead, be really glad...”

Fiery Trials: Hardship and persecution are part of normal Christian experience; they refine our faith.

Shared Sufferings with Christ: We become “partners” with Christ in His suffering, drawing closer to Him.

Future Joy: God promises that our trials will be eclipsed by joy when Christ's glory is fully revealed.

Application: Thank God in hard times, knowing He purifies and matures your faith. Reflect on Jesus' own sufferings to find courage and perspective.

SUFFER FOR THE RIGHT REASONS

“Be happy if you are cursed and insulted for being a Christian... Don't let me hear of your suffering for murdering or stealing...”

Blessed in Persecution: Insults and opposition for Christ's sake bring a special blessing—God's Spirit rests on you.

Avoid Needless Trouble: There's no merit in suffering for wrongdoing. Righteous suffering is different; it testifies to Christ's power.

Honor in the Name of Jesus: Bearing Christ's name is a privilege; suffering for Him is never wasted.

Application: Check your motives and actions to ensure suffering arises from faithfulness, not wrongdoing.

When facing ridicule for your faith, stand firm in your identity as a beloved child of God.

THE REFINING OF GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

“For the time has come for judgment, and it must begin first among God's own children...” (v. 17)

Divine Discipline: God refines His people first, purifying our hearts (Hebrews 12:6–7).

God's Standards: He holds believers to a high standard because we know His truth.

Serious Consequences: If even Christians face judgment, the reality of eternal separation is far more serious for those who reject the gospel.

Application: Let adversity drive you to repentance and renewal, rather than bitterness. Live in reverence, knowing the One who calls you is holy (1 Peter 1:15–16).

TRUSTING THE FAITHFUL CREATOR

“So if you are suffering according to God’s will, keep on doing what is right and trust yourself to the God who made you, for he will never fail you.” (v. 19)

God’s Will in Suffering: Sometimes it is God’s plan for us to walk through pain for His greater purpose.

Steadfast Obedience: We are called to keep doing what’s right, regardless of opposition or personal cost.

God’s Faithfulness: He created us; He knows our limits and has promised never to abandon us (Hebrews 13:5).

Application: Recommit your life to God’s care daily. Let trust in God’s goodness guide every decision, especially in times of suffering.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO REFLECT ON

- Romans 5:3–4 – Suffering produces perseverance, character, and hope.
- James 1:2–4 – Trials test our faith, leading us to maturity.
- Hebrews 12:6–7 – The Lord disciplines those He loves.
- Matthew 5:10–12 – Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake.
- Isaiah 53 – The prophecy of Christ’s suffering for our salvation.

FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

Whatever suffering you face, remember that it is not the end of your story. In Christ, suffering refines and strengthens. May these chapters from 1 Peter 4 embolden your heart, draw you closer to the Savior, and remind you that, as you share in His sufferings, you will also share in His glory.

GET IN TOUCH

Thank you for joining us on this transformative journey! We'd love to hear from you, learn about your experiences, and continue growing together in faith. Whether you have a question, need encouragement, or simply want to share your story, we're here for you.

FOLLOW US OR CONTACT US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

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- Email: info@josenietojr.com

Your voice matters, and we can't wait to journey alongside you. Stay connected, keep the faith, and remember: we're all in this together!