



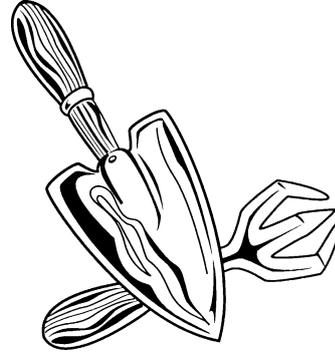
## EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

# FOLLOW-UP TOOLS FOR CONVERTS

NOTES

### Introduction

In the next two lessons we will translate follow-up philosophy into some practical tools and guides which will aid you as you help others grow to maturity in Christ. These tools and guides will aid you in the structured aspect of what to teach to your converts.



All of the materials suggested are tools which you have completed already in your *ETS* lessons. These tools are re-formatted into a structured guide in this lesson to assist you in learning how to follow-up on a new convert.

An extremely important part of the follow-up relationship is its recreational aspect. The new convert needs to see and experience how Christians can have fun without doing things that dishonor Christ or break His commandments.

A new convert who had lived a rather wild life prior to his conversion remarked, "The first time I went to a Christian function I thought, 'This isn't going to be much fun without liquor and dancing and making out with the girls.' At the end of the evening I was amazed at how much fun I had. Everything was clean and honoring to God, but I couldn't remember any function in recent years which had been more enjoyable. It was hard to believe that the Christians could have more fun than the non-Christians."

Ask God to give you a sanctified imagination as you work on the recreational aspect of follow-up.

### Objective for New Convert

**The objective is to help the new convert be established in a growing relationship with God. The key to this relationship is a strong healthy communication process which is accomplished by prayer and the Word of God.**

This is beautifully illustrated for us in what we call the **Wheel Illustration**. The *vertical spokes* illustrate this communication process. *Through prayer*, the convert is able to express to God both the thoughts he is thinking and the things he is feeling. *Through the Word*, God has very carefully expressed both His instructions to us and His feelings for us. The *hub*, which deals with our personal relationship with God, allows this communication to take place.

## The Hub of the Wheel

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The source of power to drive the wheel comes from the hub of the wheel. **Once Christ comes to live in us, He provides the source of power.**

*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

*(Acts 1:8)*

**The Holy Spirit is God's helper** in helping us to build a strong, growing relationship with God. Without His guidance and help, the convert will never be established in his walk with God. The Holy Spirit also dwells in us and is our *source* of comfort.

*And I will pray the Father, and **He shall give you another Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever.*

*John 14:16 (KJV)*

**The Holy Spirit instructs us** in all we need to know and calls the truth of Scripture to our conscious memory.

*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

*(John 14:26)*

It is only by careful help from the Spirit of God, that we will find the power to overcome the enemy. Satan is a faithful enemy who will do everything in his power to neutralize or destroy our relationship with God.

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*

*(1 Peter 5:8)*

The *key to the convert's growth* in his new relationship with God is the **Word of God** and **Prayer**. These two elements establish the **vertical spokes** of the wheel.

### Vertical Spokes—



#### Prayer

**Prayer is the means by which God allows us to communicate with Him.** Strong healthy relationships are established through communications. If a convert is to build his relationship with God, then the two of them must learn to talk together. If there is to be fellowship that God created us for, we must learn to communicate with Him.

Learning about God's grace, expressed by His love for us, makes it almost impossible for new converts to remain silent.

*In my own experience, there were so many things I wanted to communicate to Him. I wanted to tell Him:*

- *How much I loved Him and appreciated what He had done to obtain my salvation.*
- *How sorry I was for ignoring Him for so many years of my life.*
- *How sorry I was for my sins and rebellion against the commandments which I so willfully violated.*
- *How I desired to turn my life around and live in accordance with His commandments.*
- *That I needed help and guidance, as well as power and strength, to direct my life to His will for me.*
- *That I was afraid of disappointing Him by not being able to live up to the principles of the Bible.*
- *How grateful I was that for all eternity I would live with Him in Heaven.*
- *To "Thank Him," for sending Jesus to die for my sins.*



### The Word

It is *hard* to build a relationship without creating a dialogue. God did this when He used some forty different people over a period of some 1,500 years to reveal to us the things that were upon His heart.

**God chose to reveal His Word to us through the Holy Bible.** This book is God's "love letter" to us, His children. Here, He reveals all that

He wants us to know about Himself. Not only are we given careful instruction about where we came from, but we are also given instruction about the present conflicts in which we daily find ourselves.

## God, in His Word

- Declares His love for us, and lets us know how deeply He cares for us.
- Tells us about our sin after Satan had deceived Adam and Eve in the Garden, and about His plan to rescue us from our sins.
- Assures us that Christ's blood has paid the penalty for all our sins—both past and future.
- Warns us about Satan, our faithful present enemy, and gives us instruction on how we can overcome him.
- Assures us that He is dwelling in us and empowering us to live in obedience.
- Tells us that He understands our struggle with sin and the propensity for our fallen bodies to be drawn to our old sinful nature.
- Reminds us of our brothers and sisters who have gone before us, and their struggle to overcome the enemy in their lives.
- Tells us that He is in absolute sovereign control over every situation that is allowed to touch our lives, and that if we keep our eyes on Him He will bring us through—whatever the situation.
- Assures that we will be together with Him throughout eternity.

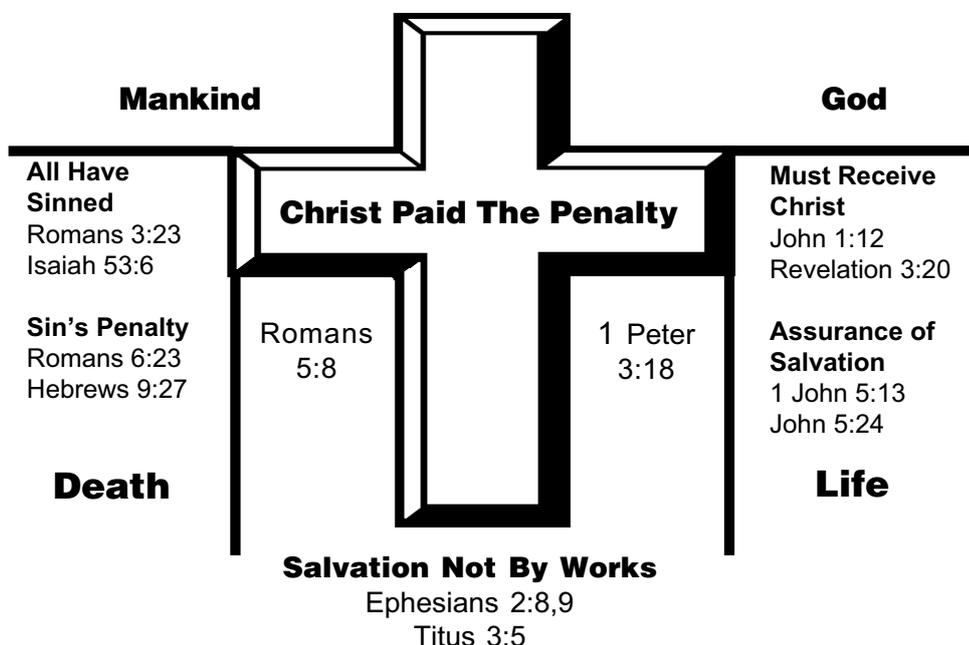
By spending time daily in His Word, God guides us in doctrine, reproves us when we are contemplating the wrong path, puts us back on the right path if we stray, and instructs us to the path that is His will for our lives.

**Communication is the key to a strong relationship.** In the presence of such loving dialogue between the convert and God, it is hard for the devil to interfere. It is when a person is not helped to develop this kind of relationship that Satan has such a destructive force on the relationship. The new convert continues to drown in a sea of fear and despair. The Gospel's good news alone can deliver him from such hopelessness. Therefore, once the principle of the "Hub" is established in the life of the convert, through the Word and through prayer, he is able to turn his life around.

### The Gospel

It is also of extreme importance that the person understands the Gospel message. If a person doesn't fully understand the simple truths of the Gospel, Satan is standing ready to steal these truths away. So go over the *Bridge Illustration* until you are *sure* the person understands. The memory verses which you have just memorized in lessons 2/7-2/12 will help you to make the Gospel clear. See verses illustrated below.

## Presentation of The Gospel



- All Have Sinned—Romans 3:23 and Isaiah 53:6
- Sin's Penalty—Romans 6:23 and Hebrews 9:27
- Christ Paid the Penalty—Romans 5:8 and 1 Peter 3:18
- Salvation Not by Works—Ephesians 2:8,9 and Titus 3:5
- Must Receive Christ—John 1:12 and Revelation 3:20
- Assurance of Salvation—1 John 5:13 and John 5:24

### NOTES

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

## Assurance of Salvation

Every person needs to walk away from his or her salvation experience having received assurance that the penalty for sin has been paid. People need the assurance that if life were to end now, they would wake up to spend eternity in Heaven with God forever. They need to know that salvation is by the grace of God alone. God bestowed this unmerited favor on us because of His love for us. God's grace is of real importance because most people have been trying to work their way to Heaven—something which no one will ever be able to do.

*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

*(Ephesians 2:8-9)*

The Gospel is “good news” when people realize that *they will not* receive what they deserve! Because of sin, each person deserves to be separated from God in a place called hell, but because of God's grace expressed in His love, believers are now on their way to an eternity with God. Heaven is the undeserved gift of God through Christ's sacrifice for sin upon the Cross. This assurance changes our motivation from a negative one of fear of death to a positive one of love and gratitude to God.

*And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

*(1 John 5:11-13)*

The good works, which we have been saved to do, are now done as we respond back to God in love rather than fear.

## Getting Started

When you meet with the convert, review his conversion experience. Help the person to understand that, as a result of receiving Christ as Savior, he can now be sure that he has eternal life.

In our teaching we must: ***Tell him why, show him how, get him started, keep him going, and get him started reproducing.***

## Assurance Lessons and Memory Verses

Go over the Assurance lessons and make sure the convert understands. Ask questions on the verse we discussed from the lesson; if the convert can answer correctly, understanding is taking place.

The first five Bible Studies used in the follow-up program are called “*Lessons on Assurance*.” They are printed by NavPress, and can be found in most Christian bookstores. Since you don’t want to use an *ETS Book One* on someone you are not sure of, it is best to buy the *Lesson on Assurances* for \$2.50 along with the book called *Beginning with Christ* for \$1.00. This has the accompanying five verses to go with the Bible Studies, with a short commentary on each verse. If your convert does the five Bible Study lessons and the five memory verses, you may want to get an *ETS Book One* for him. Careful examination of the first five *ETS Convert Application Guides* will reveal these are the same Bible Studies and memory verses used in the *ETS Follow-Up Guide*.

The next eight Bible Studies also come from the NavPress series called *Lessons on Christian Living* for \$2.50 and the accompanying verses are called *Going on With Christ* for \$1.00. You may buy a book called *Growing in Christ* for \$4.99 which contains the same thirteen Bible Studies and memory verses. You can use the lesson from your own book to complete the material needed for the Convert Application Guide.

Go over 1 John 5:11-13 phrase by phrase. Help your disciple see why this is such an important verse, and help him memorize it. Show him how the first Bible Study lesson in *Lessons on Assurance* goes with the memory verse. Do the first few questions with him so he can see how to do the study and find the verses himself. Make an appointment within the next week and discuss the Bible Study in detail in its completed form.



**Remember:** *Satan is going to work overtime to make sure the verse never gets memorized or the study done.* Explain that Satan will try to stop this and emphasize the need to make these things priorities. Tell him you will call to see how he is doing and ask when is the best time.

When you call, you may invite him to your first recreational event. This will help him see that the Christian life is not all work.

Now that you have him started, keep him going. Work step-by-step through the guide. Each time you meet, end with prayer and some fun activity such as ice cream and coffee or popcorn and coke. Ask God to help you demonstrate love and appreciation for your relationship with the new convert in Christ. Remember you are setting the pace for how he will one day follow-through on his own spiritual children.

## Objectives for Discipleship Material

To get the person started growing in Christ he must—

- Memorize the five verses on assurance.
- Study what the Bible teaches about the five assurances.
- Have a daily devotional program.

## Plan for Use of Discipleship Materials

- Introduce the materials.
- Discuss why it is important for him to do the assignments.
- Motivate him to start today.
- Help him to get started.
- Make a specific appointment to go over his progress.
- Keep him going until you have completed the *ETS Convert Guide*.

## Tools Needed for the Convert Guide

Follow-up is done by someONE, not someTHING. However, the person doing the follow-up will be aided if he has some tools to help him.

Most people need some kind of tools to do their work. The doctor needs his stethoscope. The accountant needs his calculator. The engineer needs his slide rule, and the person doing follow-up needs his Bible and some materials which will help him do the task. It isn't that we can't function without materials, but without them our task would be more difficult. Basically, tools help us to do our job **efficiently, effectively, and systematically**.

## ETS Convert Guide Follow-Up System

A follow-up guide for a new Christian is built into your *ETS* training. On the back of each *Disciple Application Guide*, you will find a *Convert Application Guide* which will instruct you with what to cover each week. This guide reminds you in which lesson the various tools can be found. All you need to do is rearrange those materials and use them to guide you as you help your convert grow into a disciple.

The Convert Application Guide directs you to remove the various tools from the lessons indicated by the numbers and incorporate them into the Convert configuration.

NOTES

- ❶ Lesson on Assurance from 1/9
- ❷ Bible Study on Assurance from 1/4
- ❸ Reading on *Beginning With Christ* and *Lessons on Assurance* from 1/4
- ❹ Memorize 1 John 5:11-13.



## EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

### Convert Application Guide

1/1

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Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subject Area Basic Christian Living  
 Topic Assurance of Salvation

		Completed	
		Yes	No
❶	<b>Topic Notes</b>		
	Review <i>Assurance of Salvation</i> (1/9)*		
❷	<b>Bible Study</b>		
	Complete <i>Assurance of Salvation</i> (1/4) (Be Ready to Discuss)		
<b>Personal &amp; Spiritual Management Aid</b>			
<b>Outside Reading</b>			
Read <i>Beginning With Christ</i> (1/4) (Be Ready to Discuss)			
Read <i>Lessons on Assurance</i> (1/4) (Be Ready to Discuss)			
❸	<b>Ministry: Evangelism/Follow-Up/Discipleship</b>		
❹	<b>Scripture Memory</b>		
	Memorize 1 John 5:11-13		

Refers to Book N<sup>o</sup>/Chapter N<sup>o</sup>

In the second week for a new convert, the subject is prayer. Again the outline explains where the material is found. *ETS* material is the same for a new convert as for a more mature Christian; the difference is simply the order in which the lessons are covered.