

to the praise of his glory (Eph 1:13-14).

The Holy Spirit is given to those who commit their lives to God (Acts 5:32). Sometimes it is given with great outward signs (Acts 2:1-4; 19:6), at other times it provides inner deep conviction and joy (1Thes 1:5-7). It is like the earnest money one receives when agreeing to sell a house—just to let the seller know the buyer is serious. It is not the full price or even a “down payment”—it is just a token of the real thing to come. Christ actually has “bought us” with His sacrifice:

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? **For you were bought with a price;** therefore glorify God in your body (1Cor 6:19-20, NRSV).

### What Is the Believer’s Future?

God is training and teaching us now so that we can “be like him”. We learn this while we are physical so that our mistakes are limited and do not “mess things up” for all eternity. But the destiny of one who follows God is so fantastic that the Apostles had a hard time describing it.

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, **will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body** (Phil 3:20-21).

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, **we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is** (1Jn 3:2).

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now **the dwelling of God is with men**, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. **There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain**, for the old order of things has

passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “**I am making everything new!**” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true” (Rev 21:3-5).

### What Is The Next Step to a New Life?

Committing your life to God is the first step down a long, wonderful, meaningful, yet at times difficult road. **You need to begin reading the Bible and living by “every word that comes from the mouth of God”** (Matt 4:4) Christ will lead you, the Holy Spirit will be inside you, and you should meet with other believers (Heb 10:25). You will want to ask some of them to baptize you, as a sign of your commitment to God.

Notice that we did not say, “join a church”. The apostle Paul taught believers not to align themselves with a specific religious teacher (1Cor 1:11-17, 3:1-11), but to consider themselves part of the entire body of Christ—the one Church. Yet today, most religious denominations are aligned with a specific religious teacher or group of teachers (some living, some dead).

Look for local congregations of independent or non-denominational believers. Visit more than one. If you ask us, we will try to help you find a group, or send you more literature to help you grow. We do not have a church organization to join.

May God bless you as you follow Him! 📖

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**For more information and/or help with your own Bible study, please contact:**

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# A New Life

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death (Prov 14:12, NIV Bible unless otherwise noted).

There comes a time in many individuals’ lives where they see that what they are doing is just not working. Their efforts to be happy, to make friends and to “get ahead in life” are not producing the results that they want. They hope that there is something better, but they are not sure what.

I remember going through a time like this myself. I read some of the Bible, including the above proverb. I interested to find that this verse was so important that the verse was repeated in Proverbs 16:25. I was also interested to find that Jesus said essentially the same thing:

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it (Matt 7:12-14).

I realized that I was not always treating others the way I wanted to be treated. Now of course, I

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