

How to Know Jesus Christ

Five Survival Techniques by Dr. John DeBrine

Backpacking is the sport that takes you places few people go and see things few people see. Whether the backpacker hikes across Europe, through the Canadian Rockies, up the Swiss Alps, or down the Grand Canyon, they will need essentials to survive the journey, such as a detailed map, proper clothing, right equipment, nutritious food, physical strength and discipline to focus and persevere. The same is true for you today. You are passing through on the journey called life, and whether you realize it or not, the God that created you has made it possible for you to know Him! He can be your sole Leader to guide you and has provided through His Word, the Bible, Five Survival Techniques necessary to living out abundant life and surviving the life to come in eternity. Only through finding and knowing His Son, Jesus Christ, will you be taken places few people go and see things few people see, not to mention have a permanent place with Him once you depart this life's journey via death. (The only other option is eternal separation from Him in Hell.)

Before we touch those ***Five Survival Techniques***, you have to know how to establish a Relationship with God and how to maintain daily Fellowship with God. Let's talk about finding Christ. How do you begin? Well, I'm going to shock you, but it isn't enough to believe, especially if your definition of believe is to mentally agree with someone or something! That's right! If you want to really rev up your engines read James 2:19 which shows that even the demons believe and tremble. However the demons will not be in Heaven. In fact, they will be eternally separated from God. Consider what was revealed through Satan's encounter with Christ in Luke 4. Satan has no problem with the authority of the Scriptures. He has no problem with the Deity of Christ. From at least the intellectual standpoint he accepts Christ. However, Satan will not be in Heaven because it isn't enough to agree in belief. Satan's basic problem is a problem of pride. If you were to say to Satan, "Do you believe the Bible?" The reply would be, "Oh, yes! I accept that." "How about the Deity of Christ?" And again, "Oh, yes! I accept that too." What's Satan's problem? Pride! This philosophy is expressed in Isaiah 14 beginning with verse 12 and it is simply: Satan refuses to bow down before God and say, "I have no goodness that Your Holiness will accept." The Bible teaches this in Hebrews 12:14: "*Pursue peace with all people and holiness...*"

If your reply is, "what do I need that for?" then listen to the rest of the verse: "...without which no one shall see the Lord."

That says if you plan to enter Heaven, you have to be as God- Holy! - meaning completely set apart and perfect. But you're not are you? One review of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 with Christ's expounding on them in Matthew 5 and it will quickly close the mouth of anyone denying their guilt before a truly Holy God. James 2:10 shuts the door on innocence pretty quick as it says, "*Whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.*"

First Corinthians 1:30 says that the righteousness that God *demand*s can be found in Jesus Christ. Once you've admitted to God that you possess no goodness that the Holiness of God will accept, then realizing that Jesus Christ is the only solution, is extremely good news, especially once He becomes the *sole object* of your faith. Therefore the issue of Christianity is John 3:36 - "*He that believes in the Son has everlasting life.*" This kind of belief signifies joining into the life of Jesus, leading to love, submission and obedience to Him. If you're not sure that you've believed into a personal relationship with Jesus, why don't you make sure right now? I'm going to give you a simple little prayer. The words are not as important as the condition of the heart you are speaking from. This is based upon the fact that you have NO goodness that the Holiness of God will accept. Jesus Christ does, and you're placing Him as the object of your faith. If this expresses your heart, will you say this right now to God?

"Holy God, I thank You that You desire for me to know You personally. I have no goodness that Your Holiness will accept. Jesus Christ does. I believe that He died on the cross, in my place, for my sins and was raised to life three days later providing me forgiveness and everlasting life. The best way I know how, I receive Him right now as my Savior, joining in with His life. Thank You for such a gift. Amen!"

According to Hebrews 6:18 it is impossible for God to lie, so in light of First John 5:9, can you be assured that you have eternal life with Christ? Notice that it says: "*If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater...*"

I don't have to wait until I die to find out. The answer is "YES!" Why? Because God says it, I believe it and that settles it! You see, I have a receipt. If you go to the mall today and buy something, they'll give you a receipt, right? Suppose on the way out the security guard stops you and says, "Hey did you pay for that?" You don't have to argue; just show your receipt. Now, whenever anyone questions my assurance, I simply say: "Look, I have a receipt." Then I turn to John 1:12 and say,

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

God said it - I believe it - That settles it. If you lack assurance, make sure you've said that simple prayer and that it expresses your heart. Know why you prayed. Know that it is because you have no goodness the Holiness of God will accept. Don't fall into the satanic trap of just saying, "Yes, I accept Christ as a fact." Know why you need to trust in Him personally. That's where you've got to begin. After you've admitted your need, and have made Jesus Christ the object of your faith, put your thumb right on First John 5:9 and ask God to forgive you for calling Him a liar. God said it; you believe it and that settles it!

Now, how do you discover the reality of the relationship that can be found in Jesus Christ? There are two big issues you must face everyday of your life - your relationship with God and your fellowship with God. Your relationship with God has been established when Jesus Christ became the sole object of your faith. You were born into the family of God, but fellowship is another thing! This is a day-by-day thing. We've talked about how to begin or Spiritual Obstetrics. Now we come to the second big phase of our study- what to do after we begin, namely, Spiritual Pediatrics. There's something you have to realize immediately. I've had so many people say to me, "Well, I started out all right, but I fell by the wayside. I just can't live this Christian life." That is true-you can't, and God never intended for you to live it! Let me take you to a text that proves this to you provides the solution- Galatians 2:20. Let me explain it before you read the verse. It says that the Christian way of life is a supernatural way of life and must be lived by supernatural methods. That's the meaning of the verse. LISTEN!

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh...” -I live by my own effort??

NO, NO!! *“...the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”* That simply means that the Christian way of life is a supernatural way of life and must be lived by supernatural methods.

Now, when you settle the problem of Spiritual Obstetrics, recognizing your need (Hebrews 12:14), that Jesus Christ is the only solution (I Corinthians 1:30), and following John 3:36 making Jesus Christ the object of your faith, you'll discover that Christianity is not a religion, it's a relationship!

So, what do you do after you get started? How can you make Galatians 2:20 work? It sounds great to say that “the Christian way of life is a supernatural way of life and must be lived by supernatural methods,” but how does this play out in your life? There are five ways, and this finally brings us to the title of this booklet. I like to call these ways, **SURVIVAL TECHNIQUES**. If you don’t use them - you don’t make it on the journey of the Christian life! Let me share them with you.

1. Ephesians 5:18 - **The Filling of the Holy Spirit**
2. First John 1:9 - **Confession directly to God**
3. First Peter 2:1, 2 - **Living in the Word of God (Bible)**...it’s like eating. Just as you have to eat everyday, you have to live in the Word everyday.
4. First Peter 5:7, 8 - I call this **Application**. That takes care of that old problem of apathy.
5. Hebrews 12:2 - **Occupation with Jesus Christ**. This prevents you from falling flat on your face someday if an individual you highly esteem, often times the one who led you to Christ, blows their own testimony, destroying their image in your mind, thus leading you to fall apart unless you know how to utilize Hebrews 12:2- Occupation with Jesus Christ.

These five techniques show you how to live according to Galatians 2:20, making the Christian life real in your own experience.

The first technique is the Filling of the Holy Spirit - Ephesians 5:18.
“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit.”

Now right away, we see motivation. If you are not filled with the Spirit, you’re vulnerable. You’re open to some other influence, other ideas, or philosophy. It’s a command! Being in the imperative mode and in the present tense means that you’ve got to consider it every day of your life. Now if you are filled with the Spirit, marvelous things will take place, and they are all tested here in Ephesians, chapter 5, beginning with verse 19. For example, verse 19 teaches that you will be happy regardless of your circumstances, because happiness is an inner mental attitude...read it for yourself. Verse 20 says that you will be thankful regardless, and verse 21 says you will be without hostility regardless.

More than likely you say, “I’ll be the first to admit it. I’m not filled with the Spirit.” Alright, let me tell you how. If you want a lengthy study as to how to be filled with the Spirit, study chapters 4 and 5 of Ephesians. Over these

two chapters you can write one sentence: “Put away sin.” Let me give it to you in capsule form. Proverbs 1:23 says, “Turn at My rebuke...” In other words, deal with that which the Word of God forbids, and God says, “I will pour My Spirit upon you.” In order to know what God forbids, you’ve got to read His Word. Start with Proverbs 6:16-19 - a list of seven things that God hates. Then go to Mark 7:20-23 - another list of things God dislikes, because of what they do to humanity who He created. In Ephesians 4:17 thru to the end of the chapter, there is a list of about ten sins. If you do any one of them, you won’t be filled with the Spirit. So, in order to be filled with the Spirit, you have to deal with sin! It’s really unthinkable how discussions about the greatest resource that God has given us to maintain unity, the Spirit of God, have caused so many believers to fight among themselves. You’re going to hear a lot of things about the Holy Spirit, but whatever you hear, put to the test of Ephesians 5:18-21. This way you will maintain Biblical balance. In the last part of First Corinthians 12 and First Corinthians 13, Paul talks about the filling of the Spirit. That’s in the present tense. It is a daily thing. Remember, the Christian way of life is a supernatural way of life and can only be lived by supernatural methods, our “Survival Techniques.”

The second technique is Confession. Of course this is very good psychologically. It’s good for you to talk to God about that issue in your life that’s caused you to have a sense of guilt. First John 1:9 lays out three things: what I am to do, resulting in what God will do, and why He does it. We’re to confess our sins. The original word used for “confess” literally means to “name them.” This was once used in the military sense of a Commanding Officer issuing a command and immediately he would say to the officers under him - “Repeat what I have said” and he would use the word that is translated here in the Bible as “confess”. So NAME THEM, which means you don’t hop into bed at night and say, “God, forgive me for all my sins.” You name them. If you’re going to name your sins to God, you’ve got to know what God forbids and agree with Him. A Bible course from the Moody Bible Institute taught that every time you read the Bible, you are to ask yourself a question, “Is there a sin to avoid?” If so, write it down. If you have hostility - say “God, I have hostility. Jesus said in Mark 11:25 that when I pray, I am to forgive if I have anything against anyone otherwise my prayer will be absolutely meaningless.” So, if you have hostility toward someone - don’t treat it as a frustration - treat it as sin. Don’t talk to God about what they have done wrong - say, “God, it’s a sin. I name it as sin.” What will God do? See First John 1:9,
“If we confess (name) our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins...”

Now, I want to show you an incredible thing about God. When I first bought a “particular” car, the dealer told me what a wonderful deal it was. He said, “John, this is the safest car you’ve ever had in your life.” Just a month after I got the car, I got a letter from Detroit which said something to the effect of ‘take your car to the dealer because the gizmo by the thingamabob was installed incorrectly and if you don’t take it in, the front wheels can come off!’ Well, I’m glad God gives a far better guarantee than that. God says that if you will name what you know to be sin, He’ll take care of the rest. Now, let me prove it to you. Look at the verse again, “*If we confess (name) our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins...*” - look at the rest of our verse - “*...and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*” Now that’s a deal!!!

Since you know what we are to do and secondly, what God will do, then why does God do it? “Because He is faithful and just.” You see, God will treat you, not on the basis of how you treat Him, nor on the basis of your character, but on the basis of His character. With a sincere and broken heart before God (see Psalm 51), your job is to name it as sin to Him and without worrying anymore and crying about it for three days, accept the truth that God is faithful and just to forgive. God said it; I believe it and that settles it!

Let’s go to the third technique - First Peter 2:1, 2 – Living in the Word. Job 23:12 says the Word of God is more necessary than going to the dining room table everyday to eat. Then why don’t you study the Bible every day? It is more necessary for you than your food if you’re going to live the Christian life abundantly. The very next thing you’re supposed to do is “desire the pure milk of the Word that you may grow”- First Peter 2:2- “as newborn babes.” Let me explain to you why it’s so important and then show you how to do it. The moment Jesus Christ becomes the object of your faith, God does, at least 34 things for you. This is called positional truth. (If you will write to Songtime and ask for the cassette of “Explaining Christianity,” we will be glad to send it to you.)

In the Book of Ephesians, there is a clear illustration of this; the first three chapters share your wealth in Christ, all the things that God has done for you at the moment of conversion. Living the Christian life is transferring positional truth into experience. How do you do that? By daily eating and feasting upon the Word of God – see First Peter 2:2. You say, “That’s great! But I don’t want to do that” or “I try to do it and I don’t get anything out of it.” There is a condition expressed in First Peter 2:1 - you must DEAL WITH SIN. It says, “Therefore laying aside all malice, and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speakings...” Unless you know how to utilize First John 1:9, CONFESSION, then according to First Peter 2:1, Bible study is going

to be an absolute bore! Let me show you an example, as I remember someone coming to me once saying: “I don’t have any desire to go to church.” I asked, “When did this happen?” They said, “I first noticed this about the first of October.” I asked, “What did you do that week?” and their face turned red. They said, “How did you know?” I said “First Peter 2:1. You cannot live in sin and live in the Word of God.”

Now for the fourth Survival Technique. . . . I call it Application. Because First Peter 5:7, 8 says to deal with apathy, there has to be application. Information without application equals lethargy. First Peter 5:7 simply says: “... *casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*” For every problem that you have today, there’s a promise in the Word of God that applies to it. More than once, I have placed my thumb on a text in the Bible and said “Lord, that’s Your promise; make it good”. Do you know how to take your problems to the specific promise and say, “God, there’s Your promise and here’s my problem; I’m putting it right on that promise. Make it good.” That’s what we mean by application. You will discover in First Peter 5:8 that this technique has an enemy and that enemy is Satan. That’s why Peter says, “*Be sober; be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*” So, if you put your thumb on a promise and you still quake, then go to Ephesians 6:12 and read all the verses right to the end of the chapter. It shows you how to handle the problem of Satan. You have two pieces of offensive warfare; one is prayer and the other is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17-19). If you activate these forces (prayer and the Word of God), you’re going to find application much easier.

The fifth and final Survival Technique is based on Hebrew 12:2 concerning one’s Occupation with Jesus Christ. One of the biggest problems a new Christian has is occupation with things, with self, and with others. Self-pity is devastating. How do you handle it? By looking unto Jesus. Hebrews 12:2 and Second Corinthians 3:18 tell me that I’m to go to the Bible, because that is the only place I can see Him as He is. Make sure when you know that Jesus Christ has become the object of your faith, that you know how to say: “When God says it, I believe it and that settles it.” Knowing Him as the author of your faith is important, but also notice that He is known as the “Finisher of your Faith.” And, of course, Philippians 1:6 confirms this, “*Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*” That means if I stick with Him, I’m going to make it! It’s like somebody said to a Believer that I know - “Why are you an optimist?” He said, “Because I’ve read the last Book of the Bible and I know how it’s going to end.” Stick with Him and daily main-

tain fellowship with Him. As He is known to you as the author of your faith and the finisher of your faith, marvelous things will happen.

Revelation, chapter 1 pictures Jesus as He is right now. You're going to meet a man by the name of John. Let me tell you about John; verse 9 of Revelation 1 pictures him banished to an isle, not because he's wronged somebody, but "*for the Word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.*" I remember how I received an honorarium for a preaching engagement once and thought it was going to be a fairly good one because there were an awful lot of Cadillacs in the parking lot. Well, they ended up handing me a pen that wouldn't even work. I left that meeting rather discouraged. Then I thought of John the author in Revelation 19 - what was his honorarium? Banished to an isle! The question remains, why wasn't he occupied with himself and with things, (the honorarium), and with others (the bad deal he got from others)? It was because in Revelation 1, he had a vision of Jesus Christ. He was occupied with Jesus Christ and, therefore, things, self and others didn't really matter.

When Heaven is your destination, Heaven is your motivation!

Remember...**FIVE SIMPLE TECHNIQUES** - I call them **SURVIVAL TECHNIQUES**. Survive by knowing Christ! Why? Because in John 17:3, Jesus said, "*And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*"

Psalm 121

*I will lift up my eyes to the hills—
from whence comes my help.
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.*

*He will not allow your foot to be moved;
He who keeps you will not slumber.
Behold, He who keeps Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep.*

*The Lord is your keeper:
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.*