



PERSONAL FOLLOW UP

**VICTORY BIBLE CHURCH INTERNATIONAL
CHURCH GROWTH**

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Introduction

Follow-up is a crucial step in nurturing new converts and helping them grow in their relationship with Christ. It ensures that the seeds of faith planted during conversion take root and flourish. Effective follow-up involves discipleship, encouragement, and providing guidance for spiritual growth. Follow up is very important in evangelism. About eighty percent of evangelism is follow-up. And that makes the new convert grow in relationship both with God and men and also become established.

Colossians 1: 3-12

“We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God’s people, the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you^[f] to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.”

THE PROCESS OF ASSIMILATING A NEW CONVERT INTO THE CHURCH

1. Follow up and Initial Encouragement

Reach out to the new convert within 24 – 48 hours to encourage and pray with the new convert. In the process share essential faith materials and invite them to the next service or meeting.

2. Joining a Department (Service in Church)

The one following up must endeavor to identify the gifts and interests of their new converts. The new converts must be encouraged to join a ministry or service department for active participation. This will allow the new convert to receive training and mentorship within their chosen department.

3. Home Cell Group Integration

The one following up must be intentional to connect the new convert to a nearby home cell or small group for fellowship. To ensure spiritual growth, the home cell leader needs to regularly check-in on the new convert.

4. Church Assimilation Process

The assimilation process of the church will require that the new convert is enrolled in the church's structured assimilation or discipleship program. Here, the convert will be taught foundational Christian doctrines and church vision.

5. Consistent Church Attendance

The importance of regular church attendance for growth in the life of the new convert cannot be over emphasized. Mentors or shepherds should be assigned to encourage consistency and accountability.

6. Ongoing Discipleship and Growth

The journey of faith in the life of a believer is a life-long endeavor. There is no end to the transformation process in the life of the believer on this earth. This

implies that the new convert will need continues mentoring and supporting in his spiritual journey. Milestones such as baptism and personal testimonies should be celebrated.

STEPS TO EFFECTIVE FOLLOW UP

1. Pray for the New Convert

Intercession is very important and must be taken seriously; it must be done intentionally. Prayer is the foundation of effective follow-up. It demonstrates dependence on God to work in the new believer's life.

- a. **Pray for spiritual growth:** Ask God to help them grow in their faith and understanding of His Word.

Colossians 1:9-10 (NIV): *"We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way."*

- b. **Pray for protection:** New believers often face spiritual attacks. Pray for their protection from the enemy

Ephesians 6:18 (NIV): *"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests."*

- c. **Pray for guidance:** Ask God to give them wisdom as they make decisions in their new life (James 1:5).

Pray for their spiritual growth, protection, and understanding of their identity in Christ.

2. Establish Contact

It is essential to connect with new converts as soon as possible after their decision to follow Christ.

- a. **Welcome them:** Celebrate their decision and affirm their importance in God's family (Luke 15:7).
- b. **Exchange contact information:** Ensure you have their phone number, email, or other means of communication.
- c. **Follow up promptly:** Reach out within a few days to express your excitement and offer support.

3. Build Relationships

Establishing a genuine relationship with new believers is key to effective discipleship.

- a. **Spend time with them:** Invite them for homecell meeting, bread breaking, or church events.

Acts 2:42 (KJV): "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

Listen to their story: Understand their background, challenges, and questions.

Ephesians 4:32: "Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you."

- b. **Show genuine care:** Be approachable and available when they need support.

Philippians 2:20: "I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare"

4. Provide Assurance of Salvation

New converts may struggle with doubt about their salvation. Help them understand the assurance of their salvation through Scripture.

a. God's promise of eternal life

John 3:16 (NIV): *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

b. Assurance of salvation

1 John 5:13 (NIV): *"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."*

c. Salvation through faith in Jesus

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV): *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."*

5. Encourage Bible Reading and Prayer

Teach them to develop a daily habit of Bible reading and prayer. Teach them the importance of God's Word as their guide for life and spiritual growth.

- a. Start with simple steps:** Suggest starting with the Gospel of John for a foundational understanding of Jesus. Encourage them to start with the Gospel of John and provide a daily reading plan.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV): *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

Psalms 119:105 (NIV): *"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."*

Matthew 4:4 (NIV): *"Jesus answered, 'It is written: Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

- b. **Provide resources:** Offer a Bible, devotional materials, or Bible app recommendations.

Hosea 14:2 (NIV): *"Take with you words, and turn to the Lord ..."*

2 Timothy 4:13 (KJV): *"The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments."*

- c. **Teach them to pray:** Explain that prayer is simply talking to God and listening to Him. Prayer is a vital component of their relationship with God.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV): *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

Luke 11:1-2 (NIV): *"One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray.'"*

Explain that prayer is talking to God, expressing their gratitude, needs, and concerns. Share simple models like the ACTS method (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication).

6. Invite Them to Church

Help new converts get connected to your local church where they can grow spiritually and build relationships. Connecting with other believers is essential for spiritual growth and accountability.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV): *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."*

Acts 2:42 (NIV): *"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."*

Encourage them to attend church, join a small group, or participate in Bible studies.

- a. **Introduce them to the church family:** Introduce them to church members who can provide additional support.
- b. **Explain the importance of fellowship:** Share the benefits of gathering with other believers (Hebrews 10:24-25).
- c. **Encourage regular attendance:** Offer to pick them up or sit with them during services.

7. Teach Basic Christian Doctrine

Provide foundational teachings to help them understand their new faith.

- a. **Key topics to cover:**

- Who Jesus is and what He has done.
 - The role of the Holy Spirit.
 - The importance of the Bible.
 - The meaning of baptism and communion.
 - The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).
- b. **Use simple language:** Avoid overwhelming them with complex theology.
- c. **Recommend classes or groups:** Invite them to New Life Class, Church Life Class and Priesthood Class.

8. Encourage Baptism

Baptism is an important step of obedience and public declaration of faith. Baptism is a public declaration of their faith and an act of obedience.

Acts 2:38 (NIV): *"Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.'"*

Matthew 3:13-17 (NIV): *"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him."*

Explain its significance and help them prepare for this step.

- a. **Explain its significance:** Share that baptism symbolizes dying to sin and being raised to new life in Christ (Romans 6:4).
- b. **Help them prepare:** Assist with understanding the process and answering any questions.
- c. **Celebrate with them:** Attend their baptism and encourage others to support them as well.

9. Disciple Them

Discipleship is the process of helping new believers grow into mature followers of Christ. Discipleship involves teaching them to live as followers of Christ.

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV): *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

2 Peter 3:18 (NIV): *"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*

Meet with them regularly to study Scripture, answer questions, and encourage obedience to God's commands.

- a. **Teach them to obey Jesus' commands:** Emphasize living according to God's Word (John 14:15).
- b. **Meet regularly:** Schedule one-on-one or small group meetings to discuss Scripture and life application.
- c. **Use discipleship materials:** Provide structured resources such as study guides or books.
- d.

10. Encourage Evangelism

Help new converts understand their role in sharing their faith with others. Encourage new converts to share their testimony and the Gospel with others.

Romans 1:16 (NIV): *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes."*

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV): *"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."*

Provide simple tools or approaches, such as sharing their testimony or using key Scriptures.

- a. **Teach them to share their testimony:** Show them how to share their story of salvation simply and clearly.
- b. **Involve them in outreach:** Invite them to join church evangelism efforts.
- c. **Explain the Great Commission:** Emphasize Jesus' command to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20).

11. Address Challenges and Doubts

New believers may face opposition, doubts, struggles or challenges as they grow in their faith. Equip them with Scripture to overcome.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV): *"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."*

James 1:2-4 (NIV): *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance."*

Romans 8:37-39 (NIV): *"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."*

Encourage them to trust God and rely on the Holy Spirit during difficult times.

- a. **Be patient:** Help them navigate questions and challenges with love and understanding.
- b. **Share your experience:** Use your testimony to show that struggles are a normal part of the Christian journey.
- c. **Encourage perseverance:** Remind them of God's faithfulness and the promise of His help (Philippians 1:6).

12. Connect Them with Accountability Partners

Accountability is essential for spiritual growth and maintaining faithfulness.

- a. **Match them with mature believers:** Pair them with someone who can mentor and guide them.
- b. **Join a small group:** Encourage participation in church ministries or department like the choir, prayer, ushering, technical amongst others.
- c. **Foster mutual encouragement:** Promote an environment where they can share openly and receive support.

13. Celebrate Milestones

Acknowledge and celebrate significant steps in their spiritual journey.

- a. **First Bible reading plan completion:** Encourage their dedication to Scripture.
- b. **Baptism:** Make their baptism a joyful and memorable occasion.
- c. **One-year spiritual anniversary:** Reflect on their growth and encourage continued faithfulness.

14. Depend on the Holy Spirit

Ultimately, it is the Holy Spirit who transforms lives.

- a. **Rely on God's power:** Trust that He will work in their hearts and guide their growth.
- b. **Be patient:** Spiritual growth is a process, and everyone develops at a different pace.

Consistency is vital to ensure they remain on the path of spiritual growth.

Galatians 6:9 (NIV): *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

Philippians 1:6 (NIV): *"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*

Schedule regular check-ins to encourage, teach, and address any concerns.