



**FOUNDATION  
FOR  
CHRISTIAN  
LIVING**

**Booklet 1 New Beginning**

**IAN PIKE**

## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	1
Chapter 1 Salvation .....	4
Chapter 2 Water Baptism and Communion.....	8
Chapter 3 Baptism with the Holy Spirit.....	11
Chapter 4 God's Word.....	15
Chapter 5 Prayer and Worship.....	18
Chapter 6 Faith and Healing.....	21
Chapter 7 Giving and Serving.....	24
Chapter 8 Second Coming and Right Living .....	28
Chapter 9 Building on the Foundation .....	31

## Introduction

All scriptures are New King James Version unless otherwise noted

As I begin this new Booklet “Foundation For Christian Living” I am reminded of my spiritual journey of over 67 years which has been so good and as I have looked more closely I have realised that my life has been built on a strong foundation – Jesus Christ. I am amazed that my spiritual journey has been so long and enjoyable today I am still so passionate about the Lord right now I find living with Jesus so fulfilling and pleasurable. As I commence there is one unshakeable fact that needs to be talked about and that is the foundation of my life. Nothing of worth can be built to last if it does not have a good foundation. This applies equally to a small cottage or a high rise building, so if this applies in the natural it certainly applies to our spiritual life. The need of having the right foundation is so evident in the current church climate since the pandemic. I was recently talking with my senior Pastor and he told me that he had been in contact with other Pastors all around the

world and has been told of a loss of 40% of their congregations – life got too hard so they gave up, from this it is so obvious that they did not have the correct foundation in their lives. It is so important to look at what the Bible teaches about foundations and apply it to the way that we live. **1 Corinthians 3:11** says: *“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ”*. Jesus taught His disciples in **Matthew 7** and **Luke 6** that obeying the word of God builds a strong foundation on which to build. There is something that needs to be highlighted many people start right by being born – again so they start with the right foundation but they never build on that foundation a strong relationship with the Lord. **1 Peter 2:7** says: *“As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby”*. **2 Peter 3:18a** says: *“But grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ”*. Remember if we do not grow we die, **Matthew 10:22b** says: *“But he who endures to the end shall be saved”*. Jesus told the parable of the five foolish virgins in **Matthew 25** who let their lamps go out and did not attend the wedding. Paul challenged the church at Galatia in **Galatians 3:1a**

**&3** *“O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth. Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect in the flesh”*. God wants to say to us at the end of our life with *“Well done good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of the Lord”* (**Matthew 25: 21&23**). I call my Christian life living with Jesus and that is how it has been – I take Jesus with me everywhere I go. In the ongoing chapters, I intend to cover the following foundations, Salvation, Water Baptism, Communion, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, God’s word, Prayer, Worship, Right Living, Witnessing, Healing Faith, Giving Serving, Second coming of Jesus. I desire that every person who reads the booklet and these chapters will fall in love with Jesus and live passionately with Him on the correct strong foundation.

## Chapter 1 Salvation

The only foundation for living with Jesus is that we are saved (born again). There is no other way for us to have a personal life-changing experience with Jesus, this is not being biased but stating the truth of God's word. This is why no matter what we have experienced if it does not agree with God's word then our experience is not true. This foundation is the one on which we build our relationship with Jesus for life's journey, and I have had this pleasure for over 67 years, so I know that God's word is true. When we look at the history of mankind we know that when they were created they were created in His image and likeness. However, Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and they became sinners. The first thing that they did was to hide from God because sin and God do not mix so sin keeps us away from the love of God. **Romans 3:23** says: *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"*. **Romans 3:10** says *"There is no one righteous, no not one"*. In **Psalms 51:5** David says: *"Behold, I was*

*brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me*". As we understand that we are all sinners it is also important to understand that in our strength we cannot save ourselves. Under the law of Moses, a lamb without blemish had to be sacrificed and its blood spilled to atone for sin, but this was only a type of things to come, Jesus would die on the cross and His blood spilled for our sins. **Isaiah 53:4-6** says: "*Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes, we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all*". **Romans 5:7-8** says: "*For scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet perhaps for a good man someone would dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us*". We must be very clear that we cannot in our strength live like a Christian. This is why Jesus said in **John 3:6-7** "*That which is born of the flesh is*

*flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit. Do not marvel that I have said to you, 'You must be born again'".* The first step of being saved (born again, in Christ), is realising that I need a Saviour and I accept that Jesus died on the cross for my sin so that I can be forgiven. Secondly, I acknowledge that I cannot save myself and therefore must repent of my sins – the Old Testament meaning of repent is to turn around, and the New Testament meaning is to change the way that I think. And thirdly, I accept Jesus as Lord of my life and I will live His way. This means that I cannot copy the behaviour of other Christians and call myself a Christian, I must have a personal experience with Jesus. **Romans 10:9-10 NLT** says: *"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, for it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God"*. When we are saved (born again) we become a new person **2 Corinthians 5:17-18a** says: *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new, now all things are of God"*. I am so glad that I am



born again these 67 years and they have been a wonderful experience of continually becoming new as I live with Jesus. Because Salvation (Born Again) is the foundation on which we build our relationship with Jesus we must know without a doubt that we are born again. John the Baptist declared in **Matthew 3:8** that People should show fruits of repentance, being born again demands there must visible changes in the way that we live. These are first, I talk to God (Pray), secondly, I want to read God's word (The Bible), and thirdly I want to tell other people what has happened to me. If I am not changed then all I have had is an emotional experience and I then decide to choose to live God's way by being born again

## Chapter 2 Water Baptism and Communion

Water Baptism is the act of being immersed in water in obedience to Jesus. While some churches practise “Sprinkling of water” this has no scriptural foundation and another important fact is Baptism is what we choose to do so we must be of an age when we understand what we are doing. It is important to remember that Jesus insisted on being Baptised and we read the account of His Baptism in **Matthew 3:13-17**. If Jesus insisted on being Water Baptised then all who are born again should follow His example and be Baptised. Jesus told His disciples in **Matthew 28:19** *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”*. **Romans 6:3-12** teaches what Water Baptism means to us. We understand that when we are born again that our sins are forgiven by God. While our sins are forgiven and forgotten by God, however, there are some old habits and thoughts that can affect us. **Romans 6** teaches us that when we are baptised we

are made dead in Christ Jesus so that we are no longer slaves to our old life. **Verses 7-8** say: *“For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him”*. **Verse 11** says: *“Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord”*. Being baptised is a foundation on which we build a closer relationship with Jesus and He becomes more real to us.

Communion or The Lord’s Supper was instituted by Jesus the night before He was crucified, it is also called ‘the table of remembrance’. Jesus understood the weakness of mankind in that we can forget important things, though not on purpose but because other things can demand our attention. So Jesus instituted something that would help us not to forget what He did on the cross for us. What Jesus did is recorded in **Matthew 26:26-30, Mark 14:22-26, Luke 22:14-23**, and revealed to Paul in **1 Corinthians 11:23-34**. When Jesus introduced the Lord’s Supper to His disciples because it was before He was crucified, at that time His disciples did not understand the significance of what Jesus taught. Before we look at what it means,

how often should we celebrate communion? Most churches celebrate weekly, some monthly, and I know of people who celebrate it daily with their daily devotion. The Bible does not say but tells us that every time we celebrate we are proclaiming Jesus' death and resurrection (**1 Corinthians 11:23-26** ). Jesus is very clear that the bread represents His broken body and the cup represents His shed blood for us. Every time we come to celebrate the Lord's Supper it is a fresh new experience and it reinforces to us what a great Salvation we have. We are warned in **John 6:53** that if we do not partake of communion we have no life in us. I am so glad that Jesus gives us this opportunity to remember what He did for us on the cross so that we can experience new life continually.

## Chapter 3 Baptism with the Holy Spirit

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is also known as 'Being filled with the Holy Spirit' and 'The Promise of the Father'. The latter name is rarely used but has great significance in experiencing this God-given experience. This experience cannot be properly labelled as a doctrine of the church because it is what Jesus expected His disciples to experience. Jesus made it very clear to His disciples that He had to return to His Father so that the Holy Spirit would come and when He came He would guide you into all truth (**John 16: 7&13** ). He also explained that it would be a new life-giving experience ( **John 7: 38-39** ). The last words that Jesus said to His disciples before He returned to the Father are found in **Acts 1:5** which says: "*For John baptised with water, but you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now*". He then said in **Acts 1: 8** "*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere-in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*". The Greek word that is

translated to 'Power' is 'Dunamis' which is more correctly translated to "Strength and Ability" and I have experienced this Strength and Ability over my lifetime. The Bible is very clear that Jesus wants all believers to be filled with the Holy Spirit and it is also important for the Biblical evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit to be evident in our lives I believe that there a four distinct evidence of being filled. The first evidence is speaking in tongues which I like to call my Heavenly Language, **Acts 2:4** says that all the people who gathered were filled with the Holy Spirit and all spoke in tongues. It is so important to understand the purpose of speaking in tongues, it makes our Christian experience strong (**Acts 1:8 & 1 Corinthians 14: 4** ). Next, it is part of our prayer life **Romans 8:26 NLT** says "*And the Holy Spirit helps us our distress, for we don't even know what we should pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words*" (**Also 1 Corinthians 14:2**). We need to understand that we cannot use our Heavenly Language too much for Apostle Paul records in **1 Corinthians 14:18** that it was a vital part of his life. Also, the choice of using our Heavenly Language is

ours for God cannot make us use it (**1 Corinthians 14:15**). Secondly, our conversation will always be about what Jesus means to me and what He is doing in my life. It is something you do not have to think about because He is so real to us all the time. **Acts 1:8** says that Spirit-filled people will be witnesses of Jesus – Jesus is alive in you and it is so easy to talk about what He is doing in your life. Thirdly the Holy Spirit guides you into all truth (**John 16:13**) as I look back over my life I am amazed at what the Holy Spirit has taught me in all facets of my life. Fourthly being filled with the Holy Spirit leads you to live the right way. **Galatians 5:22-23 NLT** says: *“But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, He will produce this kind of fruit in us: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control, here is no conflict with the Law”*. To live an exciting fruitful life with Jesus we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit without this experience it is like trying to fight with one hand tied behind your back. Finally, how do I receive being filled with the Holy Spirit? **Luke 11:13** says: “If you bring evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your

heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Ask, believe, receive and speak with your Heavenly language.



## Chapter 4 God's Word

Now we come to one of the most significant foundations for living with Jesus. It cannot be built by habit or by threat but by the desire to know Jesus better. How often and how much we read is something personal and changes in the seasons of our life, but there is no excuse for not reading and understanding and applying God's word to the way that we live. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** says: *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.* This is so important to believe that all scripture is inspired by God. Something that is easy to forget is when the Apostles preached after the day of Pentecost the only scripture they had was the Old Testament and at times we are tempted to place more value on the New Testament which is wrong. Also, it is important to understand that God's word is not a book of stories, nor a book of facts or a book of history but is God's revelation to us so that we can grow spiritually. It is

not about how much we read but how much we changed by applying God's truth to the way that we live. Jesus taught at the end of the sermon on the mount in **Matthew 7:24-28** that we have a strong foundation in our lives when we do or live by what God's word teaches. This truth is reinforced by **James 1:22-25** verse 22 says: *"But be doers of the word. Nor hearers only, deceiving ourselves"*. The application of God's word to the way that we live cannot be overemphasized because it makes our living fruitful. To help this happen I have developed in my life a discipline which is to ask myself two questions every time I read God's word. Firstly what is the scripture saying – this helps to give the right context to what I am reading. And secondly, what is the scripture saying to me? – we must always expect the Spirit of God to reveal His truth to us regularly, this is how we build a strong foundation in our lives. It must be pointed out that there is a danger that we can know a lot of scriptures and are tempted to debate our knowledge with others. **2 Corinthians 3:5-6** says: *"God, Who has made us sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from*

*God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life".* Unfortunately, some people can quote many scriptures but do not demonstrate Christian character in the way that they live. **Psalm 119:11** says: *"Your word have I hid in my heart that I may not sin against you"*. **Psalm 119:105** says: *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my pathway"*. **Psalm 119:129** says: *"The entrance of Your words gives light"*. There is so much more that could be said but I trust what is written will encourage you to be strong in the Lord through the application of God's word in your life. And the truth of God's word will be the ongoing foundation for Living with Jesus.

## Chapter 5 Prayer and Worship

Prayer is essential to our relationship with the Lord – in its basic form it is simply talking to our Heavenly Father about everything and we cannot spend too much time doing this. However, at the beginning of this booklet, it is also important to learn to allow time for Him to speak to us. When Jesus was on earth He only did those things that His Father told Him to do. Most people do not have that experience, they do not hear God’s audible voice, but some people do, my father was such a person. However, most people like myself say God speaks to them but what they experience is a strong impression in their spirit to do something and they know that it came from spending time with the Lord. This only comes from the discipline of waiting on the Lord. The Bible is full of instructions about prayer and how to pray. What I am writing about is basically what I do in private and not about praying in public which is another subject. We are encouraged to talk to the Lord as often as we can, **1 Thessalonians 5:17** says: “*Pray without ceasing*” this means as soon as I relax my

first thought is to talk to the Lord. The Bible is very clear that we should never stop asking the Lord for help. In **Luke 18:1** it says: *“Then Jesus spoke a parable to them (His disciples) to this end, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart (give up)”* The timing of God’s answer is sometimes difficult to understand but when we are unsure we keep coming to Him. **Psalm 100:4** instructs us to: *“Enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise, be thankful unto Him and bless His holy name”*. We must never forget what prayer is achieving, **James 5:16b** says: *“The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much”*. Do not be afraid to continually pray about situations in **Luke 11:9** Jesus said *“And I say to you ask, and it will be given to you, seek, and you will find, knock, and it will be opened to you”*. **Philippians 4:6** says *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving; let your requests be made known to God”*. There is so much more that could be said, but this is sufficient to encourage you to continually talk to the Lord, one final scripture **Ephesians 6:18a** *“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit”*. Worship is not singing a

slower song but when we pay homage and reverence to the Lord. Jesus declared in **John 4:23-24** *“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”* The word worship comes from an old English word “worth-ship” which means “Honouring the worth of someone” and this is what we do when we worship the Lord. In Old Testament times worshipping was shown by a physical action – the priests would prostrate themselves before the Lord, but today it is a spiritual experience, not a physical one. Because it is a spiritual experience there is a danger that emotion can be confused with the spiritual. Worship is not something that we do but it is when we allow our spirit to respond to the Lord in adoration and honour. As I draw closer to the Lord it is easier to live a life of worship that is pleasing to the Lord.

## Chapter 6 Faith and Healing

As we come to look at the foundation of faith I acknowledge that faith seems to be a very complex subject. For this booklet, I have on purpose tried to keep it simple or basic so that everyone can apply the truth of it in our everyday living with Jesus. The first important fact to understand is that God has given to every person a measure of faith (**Romans 12:3b**). Because of this measure of faith, everyone can believe that Jesus died for them and can be born again and so start living with Jesus. When someone is described as faithless it does not mean that they have no faith but they have chosen not to use their measure of faith. Also, faith has nothing to do with having a positive attitude or a strong belief, because faith is part of our spiritual life and not what we achieve through our intellect. **Hebrews 11:1** describes what faith is: *“Now faith is the substance (Confident assurance) of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”*. There are a couple of facts about this verse that needs to be explained. Firstly, ‘now faith is’ our faith is always a present experience, not something that may

happen, faith is always in the now of our life. Secondly, faith is a confident assurance in our spirit that we know that what we have asked for is going to happen even if there is no evidence to support that claim. Allowing faith to be active in our spirit is a calming experience. **Hebrews 11:6** says *“But without faith (inaction) it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him”*. Also, our faith is increased through our relationship with Jesus **Hebrews 12:2a** says: *“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith”*. One final point about faith that it is seen by what we do, **James 2:26** says: *“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also”*. Healing is one of the most powerful foundations on which to build our faith. When people experience healing they generally are so thankful to the Lord. The most important fact about sickness we must believe is that sickness does not come from God but because we live in a fallen world with its bad habits so we sometimes experience sickness. I am so thankful that Jesus took all our sicknesses to the cross. **Isaiah 53:5** says:



*“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes, we are healed”*. **Exodus 15:26b** says: *“For I am the Lord who heals you”*. **Psalm 103:2-3** says: *“Bless the Lord O, my soul, and forget not all His benefits; Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases”*. **James 5:14** declares: *“That the prayer of faith will save the sick and the Lord will raise him up”*. There is so much more which could be said but this is enough for us to believe that God heals. About 20 years ago I was healed of my prostate problems so I did not need the expected surgery and have had no problems since. However, over the last few years, I have had a few skin cancers removed by surgery. The question comes does God heal through Doctors and I believe the answer is yes. **James 1:17a** says: *“Every good and perfect gift is from above”*. So I believe the skill of the doctor is given by God. The bible is full of examples of the various and many ways people have been healed.

## Chapter 7 Giving and Serving

As we come to giving I have observed for over 60 years that the subject of giving has been an issue that has divided church people. I believe that there are three basic types of people who give, firstly, those who believe because they have a free – will so they only give what they feel like. Secondly, there are those people who know what the bible teaches but give begrudgingly (I was one of those people for many years). Thirdly those who understand that God is the source of their provision, not themselves, and it is with joy give as they acknowledge God's provision in their life. I do not want to comment on the three types of people but look at a few scriptures that encourage us to give God's way. Some people say that tithing is part of the law so they do not have to tithe. Jesus said in **Matthew 5:17 NLT** *“Don't misunderstand why I have come, I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the Prophets, No, I came to fulfil them”*. This means the way that I live as a Christian will not contradict the principles of the law of Moses. **Proverbs 3:9** says: *“Honour the Lord*

*with your possessions, and with the first fruits of your increase". Proverbs 11:24-25 says: "There is one who scatters, yet increases more, and there is one who withholds more than which is right, but leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself". 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 says: "But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. Luke 6:38 says: "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." Finally Paul says in Acts 20:35b "And remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive". Before I talk about serving there is one very important question that should be addressed – How often should we attend church? Unfortunately, this is a question that should never come to our minds. When you are in love you want to spend as much time as you can*

with the person you love. The same goes for being in church so that we can honour the one that we love, there should not be things that cannot be rearranged so that we miss out on being with the person we love so much and enjoying being with other people who encourage us. As we come to serving we must recognize that we do not serve to please the Lord but because He is in us. **Ephesians 2:8-9** Says *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast”*. **Matthew 20:28** says: *“Just as the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give His life a ransom for many”*. **Psalms 100:2** says *“Serve the Lord with gladness, come before His presence with singing”*. We read in **Acts 6: 1-7** that when the early church chose people to serve they chose people full of the Holy Spirit, this highlights the spiritual aspect of serving. **Colossians 3:23-24** says: *“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ”*. It is such a blessing to

serve one another and help the church function for the benefit of others.

## Chapter 8 Second Coming and Right Living

The truth about the Second Coming of Jesus is such a vast subject, the intricate details mentioned in the Bible are so vast that it would take a whole book to cover some of what the bible teaches. The purpose of this booklet is to warn us of the certainty of Christ's second coming and share some basic facts to encourage us how to prepare for it. We read in **Acts 1:10-11** that when Jesus returned to heaven the Angels told the disciples that Jesus would return the same way that He left. Jesus said in **John 14:3** *"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also"*. We know that Jesus has returned to the Father and will certainly return to take us who are alive back to heaven with Him. Jesus taught His disciples about end times in **Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21** and the apostles also wrote in **1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, and 2 Peter 3:9-13**. I want to now take a few scriptures to challenge us about the Second Coming of Jesus,

and these scriptures are in no special order. Also when you read what Jesus said it is not hard to conclude that His return is not far away. Jesus said in **Matthew 24:12** *“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold”*. There has never been such crime and murder worldwide and it seems to be getting worse. I used to wonder how could people’s faith grow cold but due to the COVID lockdown in 2020 churches worldwide have seen in general a loss of about 40% in church attendance. I now know understand how it is possible to substitute church attendance with a personal relationship with Jesus and when that happens it is easy to fall away. Jesus taught in **Like 18:8** *“Nevertheless when the Son of man comes, will He find faith on the earth”*. In this season I have chosen to press harder into the Lord and find pleasure in His presence. Jesus also taught in **Luke 21:26** *“Men’s heart failing them for fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth”*. With millions still dying worldwide from the pandemic, the way the media reports the situation only instils fear in the population. While at times when there is a glimmer of hope it is quickly

snuffed out by biased reporting. In **Matthew 25:1-13** Jesus taught the parable of the 5 wise virgins and the 5 foolish virgins. The 5 foolish virgins did not go to the wedding feast because they did not have enough oil to keep their lamps burning. **Verse 13** says: *“Watch therefore, for you do not know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of man is coming”*. The apostle Paul gives an insight into Christ's Second Coming in **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** with the key verse **V18** which says: *“Therefore comfort one another with these words”*. The message of the second coming should always bring comfort to us, if it doesn't it is being given with the wrong spirit. Finally, it is important to look at what Peter says in **2Peter 3:13** with **verse 11** saying: *“Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in Holy conduct and Godliness”*. Understanding the nearness of Christ's second coming should remind us to live Godly lives. **Hebrews 12:14** say: *“Pursue peace with all men, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord”*.



## Chapter 9 Building on the Foundation

As I come to the final chapter in this booklet “Foundation for Christian living” the whole purpose of having a foundation is that we build and continue to build on it. I cannot overstate the only foundation to build on is being born again which means to become a new person in Jesus, unfortunately, many people attend church and enjoy being with Christians and try to copy their behaviour but are not born again. Jesus is very clear in **Matthew 7:21-23** where He says on judgement day many will claim to have done many things for the Lord but He will tell them to depart from Him because He never knew them, you must be born again to know Him. We are challenged in **2 Peter 3:18** *“But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever”*. The way we grow is by understanding the truth of God’s word and applying it to our daily lives. **Psalm 119:130a** says: *“The entrance of your word gives light”*, **Psalm 119:105** *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path”* and **Psalm 119:111** says *“Your word have I hid in my heart that I may not sin against you”*. Also, it is important to be filled with the Holy Spirit because **John 16:13a** says: *“However when He the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth”*. I

have found this to be so true in all aspects of living, at work, at home and at play, as I have allowed the Holy Spirit to be a vital part of my life and as I look back over my life I am amazed at what the Holy Spirit has taught me. In building your life in the Lord there is one vital aspect and that is regularly using your heavenly language because it declares God's plan in every situation. **2 Peter 1:5-10** gives good advice on how to grow *“But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble”*. We will never stumble when we grow in the Lord, however, we must be very careful not to allow the circumstances of life to affect us. The last two years with this pandemic have highlighted how things can change and change quickly and emphasise the need of having the right foundation. Paul warned the church at Galatia in **Galatians**

**3:1&3** which says: *“O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit are you now being made perfect in the flesh?”* One thing I have noticed over my journey of Living with Jesus I have to be on guard to stop other things which are normal for living to come between me and the Lord. When this happens we lose our first love and we start just going through the motions of being a true Christian not having a daily life-giving precious relationship with the Lord. May we all join with Paul who said in **2Timothy 4:7-8** *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved His appearing”*.