

**Arrival Series for the New Believer**

# Welcome To The Rest Of Your Life!

---

It Is The Beginning  
Of A Brand New Life

Fellowship of Life Church

## WELCOME TO THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!

Hello and welcome to the rest of your life! This is not just the rest of your old life but the beginning of a brand new life. From the time that you made Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior, you became a new person. Literally, you became a new being or, as the phrase goes, you were *born again*. That means that your old nature is no longer in control. The Scriptures are clear about this. You will begin experiencing a new way of living. To help you in your new life, the following material will give you needed understanding.

Your new birth is similar to that of a newborn child. Regardless of how old you are at the time of your new birth, you start your new life like an infant, not at your chronological age. You begin at a new spiritual age as if you are just a baby coming out of the maternity ward. With that in mind, it is helpful not to confuse maturity in the world with maturity in Christ.

Things that you have learned in the world may have to be unlearned so that Christ can be formed in you. If you keep yourself humble with this thought, you will find that you will grow in the Lord faster. If you presume that you are already mature because of things you know about the world, your business life, your family life, your education, or whatever, you make a mistake that can hinder your growth. In reality, the older you are the more difficult it may be for you to be transformed into the image of Christ. Jesus said that any attempts to keep your old life (with its worldly course) will actually cost you your new life.

The changes that are going to take place will be possible in part because you will have changed your mind about things. This is called *repentance*. It is not simply feeling bad for sinfulness, but turning away from it. As you repent, you destroy the old nature that produced the sin. Repentance is a command in the Bible. When you become a Christian you are commanded to give up your old life. Repentance means to turn around. First your mind changes and then your behavior changes.

The process of personal change will go on throughout your whole life. God will help you by allowing you to see things in your life that must change, such as unforgiveness and judgments against people, addictions and habits that must stop, bad attitudes or prejudices that are divisive, or selfishness. But rather than provide an extensive shopping list of things that need change, we want you to know that the process of repentance is natural for a Christian.

The blessings that are provided as a result of repentance include mental, emotional, and sometimes physical healings in people. A new peace in your soul will come. So don't think of repentance as a one time act, but rather as an ongoing experience.

Many of the practices of Christianity will be new to you, and you may feel reluctant to join in some of them. But please be assured that all of them are part of God's wonderful plan for your life. First of all, you should be water baptized, whether or not you have been previously baptized. The true meaning of baptism can now help you receive the full value for which it was intended. Water baptism isn't a religious ritual; it is a "*righteous experience*". When you were born again, you were baptized into Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. Water baptism identifies you with Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. By faith you reckon or reason your old self with its sinfulness dead, and your new life alive in Christ. This ties in with repentance. Be water baptized as soon as possible.

Also, you must receive the Holy Spirit. You will find as a Christian that you can't live life effectively in your own power. You will need the power of the Holy Spirit in your life. Whereas before you were totally self-dependent and self-directional, you are now dependent upon the Holy Spirit, and need to be directed by Him and empowered by Him. Jesus illustrated in His life that He completely trusted the Holy Spirit to lead Him and empower Him in all of His activities. This will be true in your life as well. You are not expected to make all your decisions and changes by yourself. Jesus said not to go anywhere without the Holy Spirit. He promised that the Holy Spirit would give us supernatural power, and lead us and guide us in all truth.

The goal of the Holy Spirit is to help you to become more like Jesus. In order for this to happen, you'll be brought into situations that will cause you conflict with your old nature. Sometimes that will be personally painful. God will be pressing you through experiences in order for the Spirit to bear the fruit of Christ's life in and through you, and for the "flesh" which lusts against the spirit to be thoroughly destroyed.

Now this process is not always fun, but it is always rewarding. When you fail to make the right decisions and changes by following the Holy Spirit, you can rest assured that God will bring you back through a similar event until you have "passed the test". You do not move into another class by promotion merely because a year has passed. You move from glory to glory as you are transformed by the Lord and His actions on your life.

Jesus' promise was that the Holy Spirit would be another comforter—in other words, as Jesus, Himself, was with the disciples so will the Holy Spirit be with us. What a wonderful promise!

Learning is an important element of Christianity, but as a Christian you must know the difference between *information* and *transformation*. In our society we go to school, take academic courses and receive information, which is then used to pass tests or perform certain tasks. However, that information doesn't necessarily change you. It simply allows you to do something. There is a difference between character change and accumulating information. Information might teach you how to add two and two, but it may not touch your personality.

God wants to touch your "person". *Transformation* is the change that occurs in us as a result of knowledge coming to us and then being acted on by the Holy Spirit. Then, we become living examples of that information. I pray that you never misunderstand this because it is easier to quote a scripture than to have the scripture be part of your life. Often this mistake is made by Christians who are accustomed to learning, but do not recognize the need for powerful transformation. That is God's part. He's the Agent in transformation. As you yield to the Holy Spirit, you will be amazed at the transformation process.

Let's talk about your purpose now that you are a Christian. Did you know that God has a plan for you? He has planned it before you were born. By faith and submission to the scriptures and leading of the Holy Spirit, your life will take on new value and meaning. You will bring glory to God. Now there may be talents you have, such as writing, singing or playing an instrument. But before these talents can be used to God's glory, there may be changes that God may wish to make in you. This is hard for some to understand, but our heavenly Father knows best, and has our best interests at heart along with His divine purposes.

Scripture is very clear that not only is our destiny one that would conform us to Christ's image, but that it would also allow us to do certain things that He has pre-ordained for us. Those things are determined by God and not necessarily by us. However, you play an important part as you submit your life and yield to Him. You will then be urged and prompted by His Spirit. You will begin to understand and find certain giftings God has placed in you before the foundations of the earth. These gifts are more than natural talents. Some are supernatural. They are part of everything that God wants you to be. They enable you to do everything God wants you to do and to fulfill all the work that He has planned for you.

In time you will be studying about certain motivational gifts that God has placed in you, as well as some spiritual gifts that come supernaturally from the Holy Spirit. In addition, some of you may also have gifts that will bring you to full-time ministry. Most of you will have combinations of gifts from at least two categories.

You may be asking, "What gifts?" Well, they range from supernatural gifts of administration to those of pastoring. Since not all are called to pastoring, many gifts such as mercy, hospitality, prophecy, healings and teaching operate on a day-in and day-out basis. All of these gifts help shape you and enable you to fulfill the purposes God has for you.

Once you became a Christian you moved out from the wrath of God. You are no longer a guilty sinner destined to hell. Now, God wants to reward you for

obedience and faithfulness in your new life. You who are faithful here on the earth will receive rewards when Jesus returns. These rewards determine our ultimate place in eternity as well. What you do or do not do today definitely can effect your eternal rewards for the future. As you study the parables you will see that Jesus spoke about what would happen later on after the Lord returned and asked for an accounting of the talents or other things that were given to his servants. Their faithfulness made him pleased, and he rewarded them accordingly. This is how your life will also work out. It is about stewardship of one's life.

Our time here on this earth is simply a moment compared to all of eternity. This is basically the time of preparation for eternal life. Included in the ultimate plan of God is Jesus' return to a new earth and new heaven where He will remain with us. What God intended to do with man initially in the Garden of Eden was for man to live in relationship with Him. There Adam was given the right to rule the earth with God and have fellowship with Him. That time is coming again. Today we rule with Him on the face of the earth as we meet life's challenges, overcome trials and temptations, bring Jesus to the lost and, in general, be the salt of the earth and light to a darkened world. In eternity we will continue to rule with Jesus where our function will be determined by our service here.

Let's now take a look at your Christian faith in terms of its relational value between you and God. Christianity is not only a religion; more importantly, it is a relationship. That relationship was made possible by God through Jesus Christ. All of our religious practices should focus on relationship, not on ritual. Our religious activities are expressions of devotion and honor to Him, and are meaningful only when they express our gratitude and attitude towards God, and are born of the Spirit. For example, we don't go to church to perform a religious obligation—we are the Church. In the original use of the word we use for Church, the meaning is "called out ones". So we, who are all called out by God, attend fellowship times with one another because we represent the corporate life of Christ and wish to rejoice in His presence.

The fact that you were born again, and placed in this congregation, was no

mistake. It was determined by God. He sets members in the body as it pleases Him. So you don't have to get into some stuffy form of pretend religion where your outward appearances give others the impression that you are pious, when inwardly there is neither relationship nor awareness of God's eternal love and presence in our lives. The whole of our religion is to love God with all of our hearts, minds, souls and strength, and to love others as ourselves. The joy of our relationship is to serve and obey Him because He has nothing but the best for us in His heart. Our times of worship should be great times of joyousness in the presence of God, who just like a loving and caring father will play with, teach, discipline and love his family.

In order to grow in your relationship, you must learn how to talk to God. No relationship can succeed without communication. Marriages, families and even job relationships break down when people fail to talk to one another. Prayer is nothing more than talk — it is talking to God about life in general, about your life, about Him, about everything that is on your mind. We are His children. Little children grow by asking their parents questions and by being instructed by them. So, too, will we grow as we talk with our Father. If you will do anything in the next several months, do this: cultivate a prayerful relationship with your Father by talking with Him.

There's another extremely important type of relationship that will enable you to grow rapidly. That is your relationship with other members in the body. We're a living community, not a group of people attending religious performances. Just as the first Christians met both in congregations and in smaller groups in homes, so do we. It's in the house church groups that we learn to continue in what we are taught, and where we interact, care for others, share our gifts, love one another, overcome certain insecurities, worship closely, pray together, and are open and accountable to one another. Just as every member of a human body is necessary, so is every member of the spiritual body — the Church. You will soon learn this.

We grow by following the examples and teachings of older Christians. We are taught, coached and developed in these smaller house church groups. Many wonderful things occur there that would not otherwise happen if we only had

corporate meetings on Sundays. Healings and deliverances of problems often occur. Answers to specific questions and dilemmas are provided. People are released to ministry that might not otherwise be available.

The Bible was given by God to you. Read the Bible. Read it with the Holy Spirit's guidance. Read it by asking questions such as who, where, why, what and when. Stop for reflection and thought. Ask God to give you His mind and His revelation on what it is that you are studying. The Bible is alive. It is His living Word. It never changes. Civilization and modern technology have not outstripped the Bible's eternal values and truths. It is true regardless of what happens in life. It is for all people at all times, in all situations. You'll find it to be the answer for everything in life that pertains to God and man. It touches the psychological, emotional, physical, social and spiritual aspects of mankind in all cultures and situations.

In addition to the teachings you get in the weekly church meetings and in house church groups, you do need personal study time. Sometimes you will want to get involved in systematic study where you study topics, or doctrines, or books of the Bible. Other times, you will just desire to read devotionally and have the Word bathe your soul, spirit and mind in its wonderful truths and liberating power. All forms of Bible study are good. For example, in the Book of Genesis you will find truths concerning God, life, man, purpose, Satan, and the future, mentioned for the first time. As you study the Bible, you'll see that it is the best interpreter of itself, and you will find that these "first mentioned" principles will be outstanding truths and revelations guiding you throughout the entire Word.

Learn to use the cross references which indicate other scriptures that reveal similar meanings to the one that you are reading and studying. Obtain other sources of understanding such as Bible dictionaries and concordances that will help you with meanings of words that sometimes do not carry the same depth of understanding in English. Reading other Bible translations such as the Amplified Bible can bring a deeper understanding of the Scriptures that you are reading. Above all, submit yourself to the Holy Spirit and to those who are anointed to teach you and guide you.



One of the best practices for those who desire to ultimately be teachers is to be a good learner and a good listener. A disciple will never be greater than his teacher, but he can become as great as his teacher if he learns to submit to those who teach him what God has revealed.

In conclusion, there is a whole brand new life ahead for you. God intends to touch every area of your life. You can rely upon Him to be thorough, in-depth, personal and, above all, loving. He cares for you and everything about you. Don't ever forget that. Now give yourself wholly to God and to the place and people that God has given you. It is for your growth and security. Trust God with all of your heart and you will find him to be faithful.

Obey the principles and teachings that you will learn as you are instructed by the church leaders. Follow their advice and respect their God-given authority. Follow the example of leaders and mature Christians. Your fears will be overcome by God's love and presence in your life. You will live supernaturally in a very natural world. You will rise above the world's challenges by the power of the Holy Spirit. You will become an example and witness of Jesus Christ right here on the face of the earth.

Remember who you are — New in Jesus.

**Welcome to the rest of your life—forever!**

# Arrival Series

## For The New Believer

---

### Welcome To The Rest Of Your Life!

This is not just the rest of your old life, but the beginning of a new life. "Welcome To The Rest Of Your Life!" is the first of three study guides for the new Christian believer. It will help give you needed understanding about your new life in Christ.

The Arrival Series consists of three study guides:

- \* [Welcome To The Rest Of Your Life](#)
- \* [First Steps](#)
- \* [Foundations Of Faith](#)

It was developed to assist the new Christian in gaining an understanding of what it means to follow Jesus as Lord, day by day. As you study the Series, you will identify areas for personal development and change, and what you need to do to make the lordship of Christ more functional in your life. It is vital that you give yourself wholly to Him and let Him be the rock foundation of your life. You are going to be amazed at what God has in store for you. You have a great new destiny.

Fellowship of Life Church  
150 Sandbank Rd.  
P.O. Box 239  
Cheshire, CT 06410  
(203) 909-0338