

# GREGORY DICKOW

## MINISTRIES

### **The Lifestyle of a Christian**

You've heard of the lifestyle of the rich and famous. This is the lifestyle of the saved—the lifestyle of the believer—the lifestyle of the child of God. What are we to do once we say in our heart, "I want to follow You, Lord. I just don't know where to go. I just don't know what to do. I just don't know what to say or how to live. What are the next steps?"

God wants you to grow. He wants you to move forward. He doesn't want you to live like you used to live. When we get born again we have a new life, but with that new life we need a new lifestyle. There's a new way of living now. It's a new code of conduct. It's not keeping all the commandments. It's not keeping all these rules. It's following the Word of God and following Jesus' system—the new system of living, or, in other words, the new lifestyle.

Follow the pattern of the lifestyle of the book of Acts in Chapter 2. Peter says in verse 36 as he finishes preaching the gospel after he had been baptized in the Holy Spirit, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made that same Jesus whom you've crucified, both Lord and Christ." God made Jesus Lord and God made Him the Anointed One.

If Jesus is just a good teacher to you, He's not going to bring any power in your life. Remember when they were at the table at the Last Supper? (Matthew 26) Jesus said to the disciples, "One of you is going to betray me." The first 11 asked, "Lord is it I?" "Lord, am I the one that's going to betray you?"

The first 11 disciples called him "Lord" and they said, "Is it me?" Then it came to Judas. Do you know what Judas said? He said, "Teacher, is it I?" To the other 11 disciples Jesus was Lord and they didn't betray Him. But to Judas, Jesus was just a teacher and he betrayed the Lord. If Jesus would have been the Lord of Judas' life, Judas would have never betrayed Jesus. But Jesus wasn't Lord to Judas—Jesus was just a good teacher.

Listen, is Jesus teacher to you? Or is Jesus Lord? If He is Lord, you will never betray Him. You don't ever have to be afraid wondering, "Will I turn against Him?" If Jesus is Lord of your life, you'll never turn against Him.

In Acts 2, in verse 37, it says they (those who gathered on the day of Pentecost and heard Peter preaching the gospel) were pricked to the heart and they said to Peter and to the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Oftentimes we

want to justify what we've done. We want to say, "I never really did anything wrong." "I was never really that bad." But not these men. They said, "Peter, what are we supposed to do now? We realize that we were sinners and what do we do now?"

## **What do you do after you get saved?**

### **1. Repent.**

Acts 2, in verse 38, Peter said to them, "Repent." Repent means to turn, to change your mind and to change your direction. If you've made Jesus the Lord of your life, you've repented. That means you've turned from you being Lord and you're going to allow Jesus to now be Lord of your life. He said, "Repent" and then what?

### **2. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

Peter says, "And be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." There's a gift God wants to give you. Isn't it amazing the first thing God wants you to do when you get saved is He wants you to receive a gift. Doesn't that show a picture of how good God is? He wants to bless you. He wants to give you the gift of the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Holy Spirit is called the baptism in the Holy Spirit. And the first evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is not what most people think it is. Jesus said in Acts 1:8 that you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. Yes, you're going to receive the gift of speaking in tongues. but the first thing you're going to receive is power. If there is anything we need in our lives, it is power, and the Holy Spirit gives us power. That's why God wants us to pray in the Holy Spirit and yield to Him. That's why God wants us to develop the fruits of the Holy Spirit, because that produces power.

### **3. Get Water Baptized**

And then in Acts 2, verses 40-41, "With many other words, Peter testified and exhorted them saying, save yourselves from this ungodly generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized." Don't reject this Word, but if you receive this Word, get baptized. I'm talking about being baptized after you got saved. I was baptized as a baby but then I got born again and I got baptized all over again. It was the real thing this time because I had truly made a decision to let Jesus be the Lord of my life.

### **4. Join a Church**

"They were baptized and in that same day there were added unto them about 3000 souls." (Acts 2:41) That same day there were added to them 3000 souls. Isn't it funny how we're so picky about when we're going to join a church? You need to join a church the day you get saved. You ought to make sure you're in the church that is going to feed you and teach you and help you grow in your relationship with God. If you haven't joined this church yet, join it today. And if this is not the church for you, go find a church today. Find the church that God's called you to be at, and commit yourself to that church. Make it your home. Make it your family. We're not going to beat you. We're going to feed the sheep and we're all going to grow together in God.

## **The Lifestyle of a Christian**

### **1. Be Committed to the Apostles' Teaching.**

In Acts 2:42 it says, "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine," which is the apostles' teaching. So they were committed to the teaching of the Word of God, the apostles' doctrine. Be committed to attending church. Continue to hear the Word.

### **2. Be Committed to Fellowship with Other Believers.**

It goes on to say they continued to devote themselves "to fellowship." That means coming together and sharing our lives with one another. Develop relationships with other godly people.

### **3. Be Committed to the Breaking of Bread.**

They continually devoted themselves to "the breaking of bread," which is communion.

### **4. Be Committed to Prayer.**

They were continually devoted to prayer. They were committed to praying together and to the lifestyle of prayer.

### **5. Be Committed to a Life of Generosity and of Respect/Fear of God.**

When they did these things, a godly fear or reverence came upon every one of them. "Fear (respect) came upon every soul and many wonders and signs were done. And all that believed were together and had all things in common and they sold their possessions and their goods and they parted to them to all men as every man had need." (Acts 2:43-45)

Notice, one of the first evidences of being truly converted was they no longer were selfish people, but they gave generously.

We are to be committed to generosity and committed to a life of respecting and fearing God and worshipping God and the Lord will add to our numbers daily those who are being saved.

Are you ready to commit to these things?

### **Make this declaration:**

*"I devote myself as a believer to the apostles' teaching, the Word of God, to fellowship with godly people, to the breaking of bread and I devote myself to prayer and a lifestyle of generosity. I turn away from a life of selfishness. I turn away from a life where I am my own Lord. Jesus is my Lord and I will follow Him all the days of my life. Amen."*

Praise the Lord! Something supernatural has happened in your life today. Now you need to commit yourself to these things that we just agreed about. Be devoted to the apostles' teaching, devoted to fellowship, devoted to breaking bread, and devoted to prayer.

We've got too many spiritual honeybees just flying wherever the nectar is sweetest—butterflies just flying around here and there but not plugging themselves into the family of God. It's time to plug in. It's time to plug into a vision. It's our vision to reach the world for Jesus Christ and we do that in two ways. We do that by building healthy churches and we do that by reaching the world through television, missions, and outreaches. I'm telling you, you can be a part of something that is changing the world. We're ready to move forward, but it's time for us to band together, to commit ourselves together to love one another, and to live this Christian life out with each other. No man is an island. You can't do it by yourself. We need each other. We need God, His Word, and we need each other. Every one of us is going to make it. Get plugged in. Come to our [church services](#), or if we don't have a church in your area, become a [partner](#) with our ministry. **We want to welcome you into the family of God!**