



Antonio Ciseri "Ecce Homo" (John 19:5)



Steps To Christ

Ellen G. White

Chapter 8 Growing Up into Christ

Memory Verse – 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

“Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Scriptures

New King James Version

Scriptures

1. What does God use to sanctify the life?

John 17:17 (NKJV). “Sanctify them by Your truth.
Your word is truth.”

Scriptures

2. How are we to live the Christian life?

John 15:4, 5 (NKJV). “⁴Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

Scriptures

3. How does one continue the beginning experience?

Colossians 2:6 (NKJV). “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,”

Scriptures

4. Can God finish the work in your life that He started?

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV). “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;”

Scriptures

5. What question does God ask about His own abilities?

Jeremiah 32:27 (NKJV). “Behold, I *am* the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?.”

Scriptures

6. How much can be changed through Christ?

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV). “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Scriptures

7. How are we changed?

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV). “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

Scriptures

8. How much changes when God is abiding in the life?

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV). “Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

Scriptures

9. What promise does God make regarding your success?

Jude 24 (NKJV). “Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present *you* faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,”

Scriptures

10. How are we to be transformed?

Romans 12:2 (NKJV). “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Scriptures

11. What new thing does God promise to give us?

Ezekiel 36:26, 27 (NKJV). “²⁶I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.”

Scriptures

12. When is the Christian strongest?

2 Corinthians 12:9, 10 (NKJV). “⁹ And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Scriptures

13. What happens to those who are living in Christ?

Romans 8:1 (NKJV). “*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*”

Scriptures

14. What changes are seen in a life led by the Spirit?

Galatians 5:22, 23 (NKJV). “²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

Scriptures

15. How does the new life function?

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV). “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 faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Study Questions

Study Questions

1. What is the source of spiritual life in the hearts of people? (Paragraph 2).

“So it is only through the life from God that spiritual life is begotten in the hearts of men.”

Study Questions

2. What must happen in order for you to partake of this spiritual life? (2).

“Unless a man is ‘born from above,’ he cannot become a partaker of the life which Christ came to give. John 3:3, margin.”

Study Questions

3. What are we not able to secure by anxiety or effort of ourselves? (3).

“The child cannot, by any anxiety or power of its own, add to its stature. No more can you, by anxiety or effort of yourself, secure spiritual growth.”

Study Questions

4. What wrong idea do some people have, and what do they do regarding it? (7)

“Many have an idea that they must do some part of the work alone. They have trusted in Christ for the forgiveness of sin, but now they seek by their own efforts to live aright.”

Study Questions

5. How are we to grow in grace? (7).

“It is by communion with Him, daily, hourly,—by abiding in Him,—that we are to grow in grace.”

Study Questions

6. How are we to abide in Christ? (8).

“Do you ask, ‘How am I to abide in Christ?’ In the same way as you received Him at first. ‘As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him.’ ‘The just shall live by faith.’ Colossians 2:6; Hebrews 10:38.”

Study Questions

7. What are we to give and take in order to abide in Him? (8).

“By *faith* you became Christ’s, and by faith you are to grow up in Him—by giving and taking. You are to *give* all,—your heart, your will, your service,—give yourself to Him to obey all His requirements;

and you must *take* all,—Christ, the fullness of all blessing, to abide in your heart, to be your strength, your righteousness, your everlasting helper,—to give you power to obey.”

Study Questions

8. What should we do on a daily basis to abide in Him? (9).

“Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Thus day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ.”

Study Questions

9. What should our mind dwell upon? (10).

“So you are not to look to yourself, not to let the mind dwell upon self, but look to Christ. Let the mind dwell upon His love, upon the beauty, the perfection, of His character. Christ in His self-denial, Christ in His humiliation, Christ in His purity and holiness, Christ in His matchless love—this is the subject for the soul’s contemplation.”

Study Questions

10. How are we to be transformed into His likeness?
(10).

“It is by loving Him, copying Him, depending wholly upon Him, that you are to be transformed into His likeness.”

Study Questions

11. What happens when the mind dwells upon self?
(12).

“When the mind dwells upon self, it is turned away from Christ, the source of strength and life.”

Study Questions

12. What is Satan's constant effort? (12).

“Hence it is Satan's constant effort to keep the attention diverted from the Saviour and thus prevent the union and communion of the soul with Christ.”

Study Questions

13. To what does Satan seek to divert the mind? (12).

“The pleasures of the world, life’s cares and perplexities and sorrows, the faults of others, or your own faults and imperfections—to any or all of these he will seek to divert the mind.”

Study Questions

14. What often happens to the conscientious? (12).

“Many who are really conscientious, and who desire to live for God, he too often leads to dwell upon their own faults and weaknesses, and thus by separating them from Christ he hopes to gain the victory.”

Study Questions

15. Why does Satan constantly present us with allurements? (13).

“Satan will constantly present allurements to induce us to break this tie—to choose to separate ourselves from Christ.”

Study Questions

16. What did John see that filled his soul with admiration and love for Christ? (15).

“But as the character of the Divine One was manifested to him, he saw his own deficiency and was humbled by the knowledge. The strength and patience, the power and tenderness, the majesty and meekness, that he beheld in the daily life of the Son of God, filled his soul with admiration and love.”

Study Questions

17. What did John lose in love for Christ? (15).

“Day by day his heart was drawn out toward Christ, until he lost sight of self in love for his Master.”

Study Questions

18. What power transforms our character? (15).

“The regenerating influence of the Holy Spirit renewed his heart. The power of the love of Christ wrought a transformation of character.”

Study Questions

19. What happens when Christ abides in the heart?
(15).

“When Christ abides in the heart, the whole nature is transformed.”

Study Questions

20. How does Christ abide continually in the hearts of His children, and what are the results? (17).

“Henceforth through the Spirit, Christ was to abide continually in the hearts of His children.”

Thought Questions

Thought Questions

1. How can I keep my eyes on Jesus, and yet examine my life and recognize my sins?

Thought Questions

2. Every day I am confronted with sin—News, TV, Internet. It's everywhere. How can I get away from the temptations?

Thought Questions

3. How long does it take to learn to abide in Christ?

Thought Questions

4. How can I handle the uncomfortable feelings that Christ's presence seems to bring?

Thought Questions

5. Why is it the harder I try, the worse it gets?

Thought Questions

6. Why is it that some people are so heavenly minded that they are no earthly good?

Thought Questions

7. Does this mean that I can't make any plans by myself?

Thought Questions

8. Will the new me be able to handle all the new things that result from the changes?

Thought Questions

9. What if people don't like the new person I'm becoming?

Thought Questions

10. How can I know if my change is really correct, not too little or much? I don't want to become a fanatic?

Thought Questions

11. How do I find out what the real problem is, and not just try to change the symptoms?

Thought Questions

12. What does it mean when I see the same patterns in my life over and over?

Thought Questions

13. Why does change always take so long?

Thought Questions

14. Why is change always so difficult?

Thought Questions

15. Someone said, “just do it.” But I can’t. Am I lost?

Thought Questions

16. Are 30-day plans what I need?

Thought Questions

17. [Add your questions]

Problem Solving

Problem Solving

The following person has a high degree of physical activity, and loves to take the roll of leader. She has been very successful at most everything, because of her drive and persistence. She usually accomplishes her goals, by having everyone else conform to her plans. She is struggling unsuccessfully with a particular sin, and has a tendency to get angry and take it out on others. If others try to help, their help is quickly rejected.

She has a hard time admitting that she needs outside help. She feels that if circumstances would only change, she could accomplish the task, and this causes her to be critical and fault-finding. Her approach to character growth has been “just do it.” How would you help this self-achiever find the proper way to have victory?

Notes: You might work with the following information: causes, options, solutions, decisions, scriptures that apply.

Additional Exercises

Additional Exercises

1. Add three more items to your “Appreciation List.”

Additional Exercises

2. Additional Reading:

The Great Controversy, pp. 461-478. “Modern Revivals.”

The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 557-567.
“Transformed by Grace.”

Faith and Works, pp. 51-54. “A Warning Against Counterfeit Sanctification.”

Evangelism, pp. 595-600. “False Sanctification and Holiness.”

Additional Exercises

3. Research the topic “sanctification.”

Additional Exercises

4. Research the topic “perfection.”

Additional Exercises

5. Describe one example of how the information learned in this chapter can help YOU in YOUR daily Christian life.

Additional Exercises

6. Find at least one opportunity to explain what you have learned to one or more persons.

Ellen G. White Quotes

The Great Controversy, p. 555

“It is a law both of the intellectual and the spiritual nature that by beholding we become changed. The mind gradually adapts itself to the subjects upon which it is allowed to dwell. It becomes assimilated to that which it is accustomed to love and reverence. Man will never rise higher than his standard of purity or goodness or truth. If self is his loftiest ideal, he will never attain to anything more exalted.

Rather, he will constantly sink lower and lower. The grace of God alone has power to exalt man. Left to himself, his course must inevitably be downward.”

The Desire of Ages, p. 125

“The tempter can never compel us to do evil. He cannot control minds unless they are yielded to his control. The will must consent, faith must let go its hold upon Christ, before Satan can exercise his power upon us. But every sinful desire we cherish affords him a foothold. Every point in which we fail of meeting the divine standard is an open door by which he can enter to tempt and destroy us.”

Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 459

“A long preparatory process, unknown to the world, goes on in the heart before the Christian commits open sin. The mind does not come down at once from purity and holiness to depravity, corruption, and crime. It takes time to degrade those formed in the image of God to the brutal or the satanic. By beholding we become changed.

By the indulgence of impure thoughts man can so educate his mind that sin which he once loathed will become pleasant to him.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 4, pp. 32, 33

“Man must work with his human power, aided by the divine power of Christ, to resist and to [BEGIN P.33] conquer at any cost to himself. In short, man must overcome as Christ overcame. And then, through the victory that it is his privilege to gain by the all-powerful name of Jesus, he may become an heir of God and joint heir with Jesus Christ. This could not be the case if Christ alone did all the overcoming.

Man must do *his* part; he must be victor on his own account, through the strength and grace that Christ gives him. Man must be a co-worker with Christ in the labor of overcoming, and then he will be partaker with Christ of His glory.”

Selected Messages, book 1, p. 353

“There are conscientious souls that trust partly to God, and partly to themselves. They do not look to God, to be kept by His power, but depend upon watchfulness against temptation, and the performance of certain duties for acceptance with Him. There are no victories in this kind of faith.”

Education, p. 255

“As a shield from temptation and an inspiration to purity and truth, no other influence can equal the sense of God’s presence.”

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 149

“Doing, not saying merely, is expected of the followers of Christ. It is through action that character is built.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 332

“It is difficult for us to understand ourselves, to have a correct knowledge of our own characters. The word of God is plain, but often there is an error in applying it to one’s self. There is liability to self-deception and to think its warnings and reproofs do not mean me. ‘The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?’

Self-flattery may be construed into Christian emotion and zeal. Self-love and confidence may give us assurance that we are right when we are far from meeting the requirements of God's word.”

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 118

“The only safeguard against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness. It is because selfishness exists in our hearts that temptation has power over us. But when we behold the great love of God, selfishness appears to us in its hideous and repulsive character, and we desire to have it expelled from the soul.”

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, pp. 122-3

“The effort to earn salvation by one’s own works inevitably leads men to pile up human exactions as a barrier against sin. For, seeing that they fail to keep the law, they will devise rules and regulations of their own to force themselves to obey. All this turns the mind away from God to self. His love dies out of the heart, and with it perishes love for his fellow men.”

Counsels on Diet and Foods, p. 35

“Circumstances cannot work reforms. Christianity proposes a reformation in the heart. What Christ works within, will be worked out under the dictation of a converted intellect. The plan of beginning outside and trying to work inward has always failed, and always will fail.

God's plan with you is to begin at the very seat of all difficulties, the heart, and then from out of the heart will issue the principles of righteousness; the reformation will be outward as well as inward."

The Desire of Ages, p. 301

“The highest evidence of nobility in a Christian is self-control.”

The Ministry of Healing, p. 85

“Put your will on the side of Christ. Will to serve Him, and in acting upon His word you will receive strength. Whatever may be the evil practice, the master passion which through long indulgence binds both soul and body, Christ is able and longs to deliver. He will impart life to the soul that is ‘dead in trespasses.’ Ephesians 2:1. He will set free the captive that is held by weakness and misfortune and the chains of sin.”

Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 142

“The victory is not won without much earnest prayer, without the humbling of self at every step. Our will is not to be forced into co-operation with divine agencies, but it must be voluntarily submitted. Were it possible to force upon you with a hundredfold greater intensity the influence of the Spirit of God, it would not make you a Christian, a fit subject for heaven. The stronghold of Satan would not be broken.”

Quiz

Quiz

1. T F We are transformed by the renewing of our minds. (Romans 12:2).
2. T F It is by loving Jesus, by copying Him, depending wholly upon Him that we are transformed into His likeness. (SC 8.10).
3. T F Abiding in Christ is a daily matter. (SC 8.9).

Quiz

4. T F A person must be born again to partake of Christ's life. (SC 8.2).
5. T F We are change into God's image by beholding. (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Quiz

6. List one thing Satan tries to divert our mind to. (SC 8.12).

“The pleasures of the world, life’s cares and perplexities and sorrows, the faults of others, or your own faults and imperfections—to any or all of these he will seek to divert the mind.”

Quiz

7. What are you not able to secure by anxiety or effort of yourself? (SC 8.3).

“The child cannot, by any anxiety or power of its own, add to its stature. No more can you, by anxiety or effort of yourself, secure spiritual growth.”

Quiz

8. List one thing that John saw in the life of Jesus that filled his soul with admiration and love. (SC 8.15).

“The strength and patience, the power and tenderness, the majesty and meekness, that he beheld in the daily life of the Son of God, filled his soul with admiration and love.

Quiz

9. What wrought a transformation of character in the Apostle John? (SC 8.15).

“The power of the love of Christ wrought a transformation of character.”

Quiz

10. What does God promise to give to us when we are born again? (Ezekiel 36:26, 27 NKJV).

“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

²⁷ And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*.”

Quiz

11. When did the Apostle Paul feel he was the strongest? (2 Corinthians 12:9, 10 NKJV).
- A. When walking to Athens.
 - B. After performing a miracle.
 - C. After preaching a sermon on God's love
 - D. When he was weak

Quiz

12. How are we to abide in Christ? (SC 8.8).
- A. By staying away from temptation
 - B. By beholding the good example of others
 - C. By good works
 - D. By faith

Quiz

13. What did the Apostle John lose sight of when his heart was drawn out toward Christ? (SC 8.15).

- A. Nature
- B. Self
- C. Others
- D. Sin

Quiz

14. By what means is Christ to abide continually in the hearts of His children? (SC 8.17)
- A. Through knowledge from the Scriptures
 - B. By the Holy Spirit
 - C. Through the habit of prayer
 - D. By help from the angels

Quiz

15. Complete the following:

“It is by COMMUNION with Him, DAILY, HOURLY,—
by ABIDING in Him,—that we are to grow in
grace.” (SC 1.16.)

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