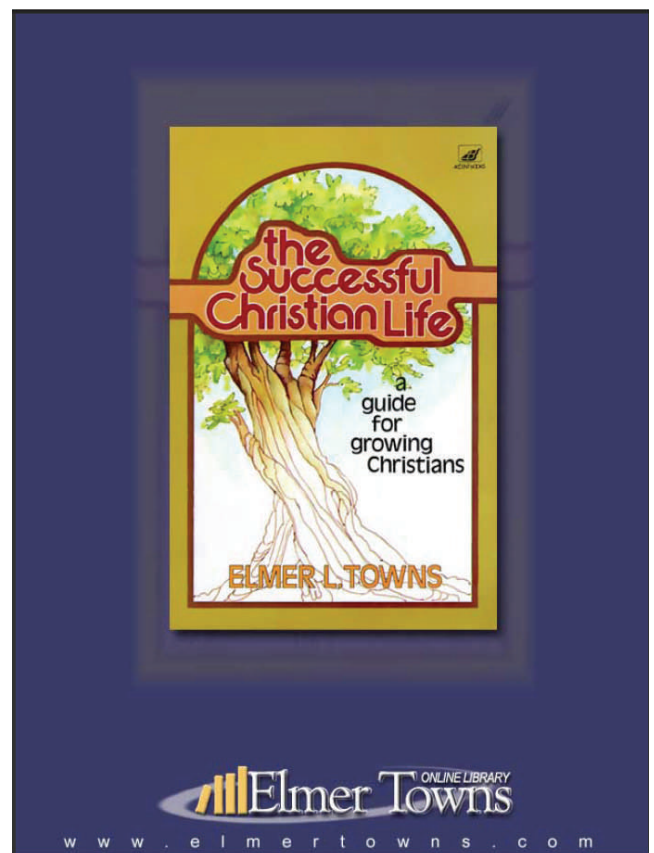
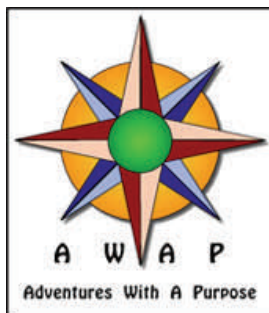


# *The Successful Christian Life*

WORKBOOK AND STUDY GUIDE

*By Riëtte Odendaal Sinclair*

Based on the  
free ebook  
by Elmer L. Towns





## Adventures With A Purpose

The Successful Christian Life Workbook and Study Guide is a derivative work based on *The Successful Christian Life*, a free ebook written by Elmer L. Towns

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# Introduction

The free ebook, *The Successful Christian Life*, by Elmer L. Towns is a must read for all new Christians, and those who wish to strengthen the fundamentals of their faith in Christ. Every Christian experiences doubts and challenges to their faith at some point during their Christian walk. Having a basic understanding of what it means to be a Christian, what God expects of a Christian, and why we believe what we do, is crucial in establishing a firm, unshakable faith foundation.

*The Successful Christian Life Workbook and Study Guide* is based on the free book by Elmer L. Towns and is intended to serve as an accompaniment to the original text. The targeted audience of the workbook is high school aged students through adults. The workbook and study guide serves as a valuable resource for church Sunday school classes, bible study groups, as well as individual or family home bible studies.

The original book by Elmer L. Towns is available in pdf format and can be viewed or downloaded [here](#).

Just click on the link in this ebook, or type the web address below in your internet browser:

[http://elmertowns.com/books/online/scs\\_christ\\_life/The\\_Successful\\_Christian\\_Life%5BETowns%5D.PDF](http://elmertowns.com/books/online/scs_christ_life/The_Successful_Christian_Life%5BETowns%5D.PDF)

# What you did to become a Christian

Read Chapter 1 in the book, *The Successful Christian Life*, by Elmer L. Towns

Every Christian has a unique story as to how they were saved, yet God has only one way through which He saves people.

## The way of salvation

Although theologians have made salvation appear very complicated, it is actually quite simple; you put your faith in Jesus Christ. “Look... and be... saved.” (Isaiah 45:22).

1. Know your need
2. Know your punishment
3. Know the gospel
4. Respond to the gospel

Salvation is not having the correct doctrinal statement in your head, neither is it an experienced based on pure emotion. It involves a total response to God. Your entire intellect, emotions and will must be involved in putting your complete trust in Jesus Christ.

- An intellectual response
  - *Know and understand God's plan of salvation*
- An emotional response
  - *Emotions in varying degrees of expression*
- The response of the will
  - *An act of acceptance of the truth, and obedience to the call through sincere repentance*

Your mind knows the facts of the gospel, your emotions motivate you, but your will must respond by turning your life over to Christ.













# What God did to save you

Read Chapter 2 in the book, *The Successful Christian Life*, by Elmer L. Towns

God not only works in the heart of every person that He saves, but also behind the scenes. He sent His Son to die on Calvary, and He is constantly at work to orchestrate events that lead to our salvation.

## God works in the heart

1. God motivated someone to give you the gospel
2. God planted the Bible as a seed in your heart
3. God brought conviction for your sins through the Holy Spirit

## What God did at Calvary

God gave His only begotten Son to die on the cross of Calvary in your place, because of your sin. In dying, Christ simultaneously accomplished many things on the cross for you:

- God cleansed you of all your sins by the blood of Christ
- You were justified and made perfect before God
- God made you His child
- God gave you a new nature which means you have new life
- God put His seal of ownership upon you through the ministry of the Holy Spirit

## What evidences God expects

Your salvation experience does not mark the end of God's dealings with you, but the beginning of a whole new relationship. We are admonished as Christians to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

As a Christian you are responsible for the following:

- Restitution  
*If you wronged people before you were saved, you ought to go to them and make things right. (Luke 19:1-10, the story of Zacchaeus)*
- Identifying with Christ  
*Follow the example of Christ in telling others the good news of salvation (1 Peter 2:21, 1 Corinthians 11:1)*
- Keeping yourself separated from the world system  
*As a born-again believer you are a new creation in Him (Romans 5:17), and although you are living in this world, you are no longer of it (2 Corinthians 6:14, 17, 18), and nothing can separate you from Him and His love (Romans 8:35-39)*















# Be sure of your salvation

Read Chapter 3 in the book, *The Successful Christian Life*, by Elmer L. Towns

A major obstacle in the life of any Christian is doubts. Events in your life might cause you to start doubting God's provision, and even your own salvation. Many doubts sprout from an ignorance of the Scriptures and others occur due to a strong emphasis on emotions; "I don't feel saved".

## The basis of your assurance

1. Assurance of salvation comes because you have Christ in your heart
  - 1 John 5:12
2. Assurance of salvation comes from the witness of the Word of God
  - 1 John 5:10, John 3:16, Acts 16:31
3. Assurance of salvation comes because God answers your prayers
  - John 14:14
4. Assurance of salvation comes if you understand the Bible
  - 1 John 5:20, 1 Corinthians 2:14
5. Assurance of salvation comes when you want to keep His commandments
  - 2 Corinthians 5:17
6. Assurance of salvation comes when you love the brethren (fellow believers)
  - 1 John 3:14
7. Assurance of salvation comes when you have the inner witness of the Holy Spirit
  - Romans 5:5, Ephesians 1:13-14

## The rewards of assurance

- Your fear of being eternally lost is gone
- The assurance of your salvation will build your confidence in God
- When you are sure of your salvation, you will be able to witness to others better

God's Word provides the basis of salvation, His Spirit provides the inner witness that speaks to your spirit, and a changed life convinces you of salvation.









# Become Grounded on the Word of God

Read Chapter 4 in the book, *The Successful Christian Life*, by Elmer L. Towns

One cannot be a Christian without the Bible.

*The Bible will either keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from the Bible.*

The Bible teaches Christians how to live

1. You are protected from sin by the Word of God - *Psalm 119:11*
2. You grow in faith by the Word of God - *1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Ephesians 4:14*
3. You hear the voice of God through the Word of God - *John 10:27; Psalm 103:20*
4. You will become successful through the Word of God - *2 Corinthians 3:18*

The Bible should be studied

1. Study the Bible itself
2. Study the Bible diligently
3. Study the entire Bible
4. Study the Bible systematically
5. Study the Bible as the Word of God that demands complete obedience to every command
6. Study the Bible in an attitude of prayer and yieldedness

Steps in Bible Study

1. Hear
2. Read
3. Study
4. Memorize
5. Meditate













# Make prayer a regular part of your life

Read Chapter 5 in the book, *The Successful Christian Life*, by Elmer L. Towns

Many Christians miss the things God has in store for them because they do not ask. (*Matthew 7:7*)  
Prayer is not just asking, but also confession, adoration, thanksgiving, and fellowship with God.

## The nature of prayer

1. Prayer is talking with your Heavenly Father
2. Prayer is the basis of your successful Christian life
3. Lack of prayer can be considered sin by the Lord

## The steps of Prayer

1. Address your prayer to the Father
2. Begin your prayer with adoration
3. Prayer should include thanksgiving
4. You must confess your sin
5. Make reconciliation with others
6. Pray for your personal needs
7. Prayer should include intercession for the needs of others
8. Conclude your prayers in Jesus' name

## The basis of answered prayer

1. Your prayers are answered when you obey God
2. Your prayers are answered when you get rid of known sin
3. Your prayers are answered when you abide in Christ
4. Your prayers are answered when you ask according to His Will
5. Your prayers are answered when you ask in faith
6. Your prayers are answered when your motives are right
7. Your prayers are answered when you live peaceably with your mate

## Practical helps for prayer

1. Make a prayer list
2. Find a private place
3. Make a regular schedule
4. The posture of prayer
5. Study Bible prayers













# Your first public act is baptism

Read Chapter 6 in the book, *The Successful Christian Life*, by Elmer L. Towns

Baptism is the new believer's first step of faith, during which time he announces to the world that he has placed his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and his life is going to be lived for Him from now on.

1. You should be baptized because it is the first step of obedience - *Mark 16:15-16*
2. You should be baptized because of the example of Christ - *Matthew 3:13-16*
3. You should be baptized because of the example of early Christians - *Romans 6:3-6*
4. You should be baptized because it fulfills a symbol of salvation - *Romans 6:4-6*
5. You should be baptized to leave a good conscience before God - *1 Peter 3:21*

## Who should not be baptized?

1. Anyone who does not believe on Christ should not be baptized
2. Innocent children and people not accountable mentally are provided for by a gracious God

Baptism cannot add to your salvation, nor can baptism secure your salvation so you can't lose it. Baptism cannot even illuminate your salvation so you can understand it, nor magnify your salvation so you can better serve Him. Baptism is simply obedience to Jesus Christ.







# Why you should be related to a church

Read Chapter 7 in the book, *The Successful Christian Life*, by Elmer L. Towns

Many Christians argue that it is sufficient to stay home on Sunday morning and watch church on television, or attend a home Bible class, and they have fulfilled their obligations to God. Cell groups meeting in people's homes have often become substitutes for regular churches. The question we must ask ourselves, are how can these activities provide an adequate program for instruction for all ages? How can worship and an expanded sense of fellowship and outreach be promoted without a church?

1. Church membership fulfills the symbol of baptism
2. Church membership places you under the ministry of the Word of God
3. Church membership helps you grow through fellowship
4. Church membership is taught by the example of the early church
5. Church membership is taught by the principles of "God's place" for worship in the Old Testament

## Belong where you live

1. The new church will watch over you
2. For the influence of your testimony
3. For more effective service









# Your ultimate step of obedience

Read Chapter 8 in the book, *The Successful Christian Life*, by Elmer L. Towns

If baptism is the first step of obedience, the Lord's Table is the completed step.

## Why believers should celebrate communion

1. You obey the commands of Christ - *Matthew 26:26*
2. You join in fellowship by communion - *Acts 2:42*
3. You examine your life and confess sin - *1 Corinthians 11:28*
4. You praise God and give thanks - *1 Corinthians 10:16*
5. You look forward to the Lord's second coming - *Matthew 26:29*

## How to celebrate the Lord's Table

1. Communion is a church ordinance
2. Communion is for baptized believers
3. Communion has a proper procedure







# Victory over sin is promised you

Read Chapter 9 in the book, *The Successful Christian Life*, by Elmer L. Towns

When you become a Christian, sins that you used to engage in without a thought suddenly will make you very uncomfortable as the light of Christ reveals them in your life.

## Learn how to deal with sin

1. You must do what God directs
2. You must not do what God says is wrong
3. You must obey your conscience
4. You must not harbor impure thoughts
5. You must not defile your body
6. You must not link yourself with those who will cause you to stumble
7. You must not adversely influence others
8. You must avoid temptation

## Learn to live a righteous life

1. You are living righteously when your new nature controls your life
2. You live righteously showing gratitude to God for what Christ has done for you
3. You live righteously by protecting yourself and your loved ones from the dangers and miseries which sin breeds
4. You live righteously by maintaining a strong testimony for Christ
5. You live righteously when your life has priorities
6. You live righteously by preparing yourself for Heaven

## Make victory the goal of living

1. Victory over spiritual laziness
2. Victory over materialism
3. Victory over ignorance











# Knowing God's will for your life

Read Chapter 10 in the book, *The Successful Christian Life*, by Elmer L. Towns

God has a purpose for your life and you cannot be a successful Christian if you miss God's plan.

## Learning about God's will

1. God's will is knowable - *Psalm 25:9*
2. God shows His will to those who will do it - *Romans 12:1-2*
3. God's will is good for us - *Acts 21:14*
4. God's will is expressed in His laws - *Psalm 40:8*
5. God's will is personal - *James 4:13-15*
6. God's will is that we be successful - *1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 John 2:17*

## Making decisions in God's will

1. Commit yourself to doing God's will
2. Look for God's will in the Bible
3. Pray for guidance in knowing God's will
4. Make sure your motives are pure in seeking God's will
5. Do what you know is right
6. Face your own thoughts, strengths, and weaknesses realistically
7. You must have peace about your decisions
8. Seek spiritual counsel from godly people
9. Study circumstances to see whether doors are open or closed
10. Do not move forward until you know you are obeying the Bible
11. Judge decisions by the long look
12. Be flexible about past decisions you have made regarding the will of God

## Missing God's will

1. The unsaved who misses God's will
2. The believer who misses God's will











# Getting God's power for service

Read Chapter 11 in the book, *The Successful Christian Life*, by Elmer L. Towns

## The Holy Spirit's power in you

1. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer - *Galatians 4:6; Romans 8:9*
2. The Holy Spirit will never leave you - *Ephesians 1:13-14*
3. The Holy Spirit is a person, not a substance - *John 16:14*

## How to be filled with the Spirit

1. Thirsting - *John 7:37, 39*
2. Yielding
3. Asking - *Luke 11:13*

## Using your gifts in God's service

1. Your gifts are the work of the Holy Spirit through you - *1 Corinthians 12:7*
2. You were give embryonic gifts when you were saved - *Ephesians 4:8*
3. You find your spiritual gifts by seeking them - *1 Corinthians 12:31*
4. Your abilities are developed under the influence of the Bible
5. You develop your gifts by taking the opportunities at hand - *Ecclesiastes 9:10*
6. You find new abilities by exercising your present gifts - *1 Peter 4:10; 1 Timothy 4:14*
7. Your gifts are developed by determination - *Philippians 4:13*









# Winning others for Christ

Read Chapter 12 in the book, *The Successful Christian Life*, by Elmer L. Towns

A soul winner goes beyond witnessing, or merely telling his own personal story of salvation. He presents the gospel in a clear way so the person understands it.

## Be a witness for Christ

1. A believer witnesses to others by the way he lives
2. A believer also witnesses to others by the way he talks
3. A good way to begin reaching the unsaved is to give your testimony, telling what God has done for you

## Be a soul winner

1. Soul winning is the Christian's responsibility
2. There are many forms of soul winning
3. Individual soul winning opportunities

### **The Roman Road to Salvation**

Romans 3:23 - all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Romans 6:23 - the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8 - God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:9 - if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

## Learn how to reach others

1. Try to rid your mind of all feelings of superiority toward sinners
2. Determine that you are going to be courteous and tactful in your dealings with others to whom you witness
3. It is important to get acquainted with the person first, asking him or her about personal interests
4. Try to find out how much the person knows about the Bible, church life, and Christian living
5. Make sure any show of interest on the part of the unsaved person is not misinterpreted
6. Be sure to follow through on a new convert

## Don't neglect soul winning











# Be motivated by faith, love, and hope

Read Chapter 13 in the book, *The Successful Christian Life*, by Elmer L. Towns

## Faith, based on the Bible

1. Our salvation is by faith - *Romans 3:23-25*
2. We live by faith - *Mark 11:23*
3. We should have faith in spite of doubts

## The greatest virtue is love

1. Study love in the Scriptures
2. Study the nature of love
3. Understanding love's demands
4. Beware of false dreams of love

## Hope, the motivating virtue

1. You can have hope because of Christ's presence in your life - *John 15:4*
2. You should have hope because all things work together for good - *Romans 8:28*
3. You should have hope because you will go to Heaven when you die - *John 14:1-3*
4. You should have hope because Christ is coming for you - *Titus 2:13*









# Be faithful all your days

Read Chapter 14 in the book, *The Successful Christian Life*, by Elmer L. Towns

Faithfulness is not what you get as a result of being good. It is what you are. You cannot prepare to be faithful, nor can you educate yourself to become faithful. Christ makes you faithful. When He lives His life through you, you are in the process of becoming faithful.

## Becoming faithful

1. Faithfulness begins to grow when you follow the clear command of Scripture
2. Faithfulness grows when you have an honest appraisal of yourself
3. Faithfulness is personified in your determination
4. Faithfulness must add wisdom to determination

## Steadfast faithfulness

Faithfulness is not only worshipping Christ. It involves the active life. One must put on one's shoes and get to work doing the will of God.









<p>If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ~Romans 10:9</p>	<p>For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ~ John 3:16</p>
<p>He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. ~ 1 John 5:12</p>	<p>Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. ~ Psalm 119:11</p>
<p>Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. ~ 1 John 5:14</p>	<p>Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ~ Mark 16:15-16</p>
<p>He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. . ~ Ephesians 1:22-23</p>	<p>Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup ~ 1 Corinthians 11:28</p>

<p>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,  he is a new creation;  old things have passed away;            behold,  all things have become new.</p> <p>~ 2 Corinthians 5:17</p>	<p>The world is passing away,  and the lust of it;  but he who does the will of God  abides forever.</p> <p>~ 1 John 2:17</p>
<p>If you then, being 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!</p> <p>~ Luke 11:13</p>	<p>But you shall receive power when  the Holy Spirit has come upon you;  and you shall be witnesses to Me            in Jerusalem,  and in all Judea and Samaria,  and to the end of the earth. .</p> <p>~ Acts 1:8</p>
<p>And now abide faith, hope, love,            these three;  but the greatest of these <i>is</i> love.</p> <p>~ 1 Corinthians 13:13</p>	<p>Be faithful until death,  and I will give you  the crown of life.</p> <p>~ Revelation 2:10</p>