

## Titus 2:6-7 (NLT)

***In the same way, encourage the young men to live wisely in all they do. And you yourself must be an example to them by doing good deeds of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching.***

Now that you have become a Christian, now what?

I think the most important thing, next to reading the bible and praying every day, is to hook up with someone who has been a Christian for some time. Someone you have noticed that has walked the talk. Maybe it is the person who invited you to church or shared the gospel with you. Why is this so important? Let me illustrate it with what part of my job is.

At the job I used to do, I trained people. I was also responsible for writing and updating our procedures. So when a new person started, I would have them read the procedures that are instructions on how to do their job. This was not just one single procedure, but many procedures with a lot of reading.

Now let's say someone new came in and I gave them all these procedures to read, and just said, "*Read these and then get to work.*" They would probably not come back from lunch that first day, because there is a lot of stuff including rules from the FDA that need to be followed.

But I didn't do that; after they read the procedures, I would sit with them and explain it all to them. I also demonstrate how to do the work on the computer and in the database (That I was an Administrator on and was involved in updates and changes to it as well). After 3-6 weeks of training, they were able to start doing the work, but still with guidance. At this former job I was there for 18 years, and I would have people come to me with questions everyday on how to process their work, even though some had been there five or ten years.

So how does this apply to a new Christian's walk, or maybe you have been a Christian for years, how does this apply to you as well? For a new Christian, we tell them to read the bible, but if that's all we do and leave them on their own, they will get discouraged and frustrated, especially if they are reading starting at Genesis all the way to Revelation. Once they get into the laws and rules and measurements and genealogies they may say that this is not for them if they have no one to walk them through the bible and help explain what they are reading. Just like I did in my training, so must we do with new Christians.

Even with older Christians who have been walking with the Lord for several years, they too still have questions and need help. Even us older Christians who have been walking with the Lord 10, 20, 30+ years, we don't know it all and still need brothers or sisters that we can confide in.

We all know the following Proverb.

† **Prov 22:6** *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*

And we use it for instructions on how to raise our kids. But I would like to take it a step further and use it in the context of a new Christian. We as older Christians need to train these younger Christians. If we don't, no telling what junk the world and false religions will put into their heads.

† **1 Tim 4:1-6 (NLT)** *Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from what we believe; they will follow lying spirits and teachings that come from demons. These teachers are hypocrites and liars. They pretend to be religious, but their consciences are dead.*

*They will say it is wrong to be married and wrong to eat certain foods. But God created those foods to be eaten with thanksgiving by people who know and believe the truth. Since everything God created is good, we should not reject any of it. We may receive it gladly, with thankful hearts. For we know it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.*

*If you explain this to the brothers and sisters, you will be doing your duty as a worthy servant of Christ Jesus, one who is fed by the message of faith and the true teaching you have followed.*