

PRESENTING the *SATISFIED?* BOOKLET

Introduction

Related Materials:
The *Satisfied* booklet

Following are the stories of three representative believers. Listen carefully to each. You might even jot a note or two. After I read them, I want you to think about these believers. What are the differences between their experiences? What do they have in common?

Believer #1: Nate was dedicated. He knew he should live for Christ and in his heart, he wanted to. So he did all the right things. He went to church and Christian activities. He tried to study his Bible and pray. In fact, everyone who knew him, knew he was a Christian, and he looked like a good Christian. But he knew inside that he was struggling, falling into the same patterns of sin over and over. Not all the time, but often enough that he was frustrated. He felt he was living two different lives – an external one that looked Christian and an internal one that didn't. He knew there was more but no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't get his Christian life to overcome his not so Christian desires.

Believer #2: Sarah wasn't so dedicated. She had come to trust Christ a few years earlier. It was definite and her life had begun to change. But the lure of her friends and old lifestyle had caught up with her. She was back to doing what she wanted because it was fun and felt good. In the back of her mind, and in the depths of her heart, she knew she was blowing it. When she was honest with herself, she wanted to get right with God. She wanted to once again experience the intimacy she had tasted, but she didn't seem to have the inner strength to do it. She couldn't, or at least wouldn't, make the turn.

Believer #3: Daniel had just come to Christ. His lifestyle hadn't changed much yet. It hadn't had time. But he knew he was different and he was glad. Forgiveness felt so good and he wanted to live for Christ, whatever that meant. Having had only a few brief brushes with church growing up, he knew very little of the Bible. Besides a story or two, all he really knew was what was in the outline that had been shared with him when he turned to God and placed his faith in Christ. He knew there was more and he wanted it.

Every believers' experience is personal and unique, yet we all have common roots and themes within our lives. Have you ever felt like Nate, Sarah or Daniel? Maybe you have felt like all three at different times in your life. Or think about the believers you know. Do you know any Nate's or Sarah's or Daniel's? I'm sure you do because there are millions of them out there.

With an unbeliever, we know the most important message that we can share with them is the Gospel. It is the power of God for their salvation. But with the frustrated believer, the believer who is not experiencing intimacy with God nor enjoying all He has for him or her, what do we have to share with them?

Today, I want to entrust to you a tool that you can use to help other believers. It's a little booklet, with a powerful message.

It's a message that God can use to help the new believer grow in their relationship with Christ. It's a message that God can use to help the believer stuck in a sinful lifestyle turn back to Christ. It's a message that God can use to help those involved in all the right activities discover new levels of intimacy with God, bringing forth the inner fruit of His work in their life. It's a message that God can perhaps use to change your life.

It is the booklet called *Satisfied?* and this study is designed to help you learn how to share it with others.



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The Importance of the Message

One thing you can be sure of is that every true believer who is honest with his or her self, desires to experience more in their relationship with Christ. Every believer has inner longings for more. These are good and can draw us into greater intimacy with Christ. (Psalm 42:1,2; 63:1)

In fact, Jesus recognized this as a picture of salvation and invited all who were thirsty to come to Him and drink. This is how the Christian life begins. (John 7:37,38)

But having come to Christ, our thirst doesn't end with one drink. We keep on drinking and we keep on coming to Him for satisfaction.

But though every believer has an inner thirst, not every believer knows what God has provided to satisfy that thirst.

They may not know that God has given us His Spirit so that we can experience true satisfaction through Him.

They may not know that their lives of self-effort in Christian living or self-gratification in worldly living rob them of the satisfaction for which they long.

They may not know how to experience the Spirit's presence moment by moment.

They may not know how to experience the Spirit's filling, empowering them to live the Christian life.

This is what the booklet, *Satisfied?*, is designed to communicate to them.

The Essence of the Message

The essence of the message is woven into the four main statements on the top of pages 4, 6, 8, and 10 of the booklet.

You may summarize it by simply saying: *We experience intimacy with God and enjoy all He has for us through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.*

How to Communicate the Booklet, *Satisfied?*

Basic Principles

Read through the booklet together. Make sure they can see it easily.

Involve them in the conversation.

Ask them the written questions, giving them time to reflect and respond. There are ten questions in the booklet. For the sake of time, you will probably need to use some as transitional or rhetorical, and not discuss each one.

Allow them to read some of the verses themselves, asking them, "What does this say about...?"

Ask them, "Is this making sense?" "Is this familiar to you?"

Use a pen or pencil to underline, circle or asterisk for emphasis.

This is especially helpful on the main points and diagrams.

It helps to focus one's attention while you are speaking.

Explain each diagram.

The Divine Gift, page 5.

If you do not know, ask, “When did you first place your faith in Christ?”

“So then, when did you first receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?” (The answer, of course, is when they first trusted Christ as their Savior.)

If there is confusion, you may turn back to John 7:37-39. The Spirit was promised to all who believe.

The “later” refers to when Jesus was to be glorified (That is, His death, resurrection and ascension to the right hand of God.) It does not refer to sometime later in the believers life. That is clear from verse 39.

Other passages of Scripture make it clear that the Spirit is a gift given at the time of salvation. (For example, Ephesians 1:13; Romans 8:9)

The Present Danger, page 7.

“What do you think the “?” represents?”

“How does a believer move from a Christ-centered lifestyle to a self-centered lifestyle?”

It will occur when we retake the throne of our lives and begin to live willfully disobedient to Christ.

Or, it can occur over time as one develops a lifestyle of trusting his or her own ability or self-effort to live the Christian life.

“Where would you put yourself in this diagram? Why?”

The Intimate Journey

“How does one return to a truly Christ-centered life?” (Through faith or dependence on Christ)

Notice that a person both begins the Christian life and continues to live the Christ-centered life by faith. Faith is the key.

Ask them the three important questions on page 10 & 11 of the booklet.

If they answer “yes” to each, continue on.

If they hesitate, are unsure or answer “no” to one or more of them, then continue with the following:

It will be helpful for you to explore what is hindering their readiness. It may tie to a misconception about God’s love and forgiveness, a misunderstanding about the Christian life, or some other issue you can clarify for them.

You can show them the rest of page 11 & 12, so that they will have a clear understanding of what they can do if, in the future, they do become ready.

After reading the prayer, “The Turning Point,” on page 12, ask if the prayer expresses the desire of their heart.

To clarify, ask, “What would happen if, as a sincere expression of faith, a believer prayed this prayer?” This can help you know how much they understand the concepts you have shared.



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If they understand, ask the printed question, “Does this prayer express the desire of your heart?” If so, lead them in prayer.

Read pages 13 & 14 to help provide encouragement and assurance.

Point out the offers for free resources on page 15 and encourage them to take advantage of them. If it is possible, you can get back together with them to discuss these resources.

Preparing to Use the Booklet

Use the three scenarios at the beginning of this section to discuss how you would use the booklet. What might you emphasize for each?

With a struggling believer like *Nate*, what would you emphasize?

- Nate needs to understand that self-effort will not produce the life God desires to give. (The Present Danger, Galatians 3:3)
- He needs to understand the importance of walking in the Spirit (The “Intimate Journey”) and how the Christian life is the overflow of what is happening on the inside, not the outside.
- Spiritual breathing will help him keep short accounts with the recurring sins he has struggled with.
- The “Turning Point” could be a fresh beginning for him.

With a struggler like *Sarah*, what would you emphasize?

- Sarah really needs the whole booklet.
- Sarah needs to know how much God wants to do in her life and what He has provided her – The Divine Gift.
- She needs to understand the danger that living a life of self-gratification is. This may help her recognize that she will never truly be satisfied by her present lifestyle.
- The “Intimate Journey” can help her see what the alternative lifestyle would look like.

The “Empowering Presence” and “Turning Point” can help her make a fresh beginning, by trusting the Spirit to enable her to begin to live for Christ.

With a new believer like *Daniel*, what would you emphasize?

- As a new believer, it is important that he understands the gift of the Spirit and what God has provided.
- Since he is a brand new believer, the present danger is more of a warning of what can happen rather than a point of identification with what is happening in his life.
- The “Intimate Journey” and spiritual breathing can help him know how to enjoy a vital and growing relationship with Christ.
- He probably isn’t needing a “Turning Point”, having not yet begun to struggle. But he could pray as an expression of dependence and desire to experience all God has for him.

How to apply this?

Think of the Christians you know. Make a list of individuals you could share this booklet with.

Are there new Christians that this booklet could help in understanding the nature of the Christian life?

Are there struggling Christians that this booklet could help in getting turned around?

Are there believers who are involved in activities with you that this booklet could help in experiencing more?

Who else could you share this with? Family members? Friends? Think of everyone.

Make this list a prayer list for the next few weeks.

As God answers your prayers and provides the opportunity, ask each person if you can share the booklet with them.

List of Individuals:

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