

How Do I Become a Christian?



The Bible teaches that our true and fullest purpose in life is to become like Jesus. Becoming a Christian is accepting Jesus' invitation to keep company with him...that we might become like him. It is a life-long pursuit of learning to abide in such a way that his character can take hold in our lives that we might live and love as Jesus does. Continue reading to learn what the Bible teaches about becoming a Christian and what it

means to be a follower of Christ.

Salvation Begins With God:

The spiritual life and this call to salvation begins with God. He initiates it by wooing or drawing us to come to Him.

John 6:44

"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him ..." (NIV)

Revelation 3:20

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in ..." (NIV)

Human Efforts are Futile:

God desires an intimate relationship with us, but we cannot obtain it through our own efforts.

Isaiah 64:6 - *"All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags..." (NIV)*

Romans 3:10-12 - *"...There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." (NIV)*

We are Separated by Sin:

We have a problem. Our sin separates us from relationship with God, leaving us spiritually empty.

Romans 3:23 - *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (NIV)*

It is impossible for us to find peace with God through our own efforts. Anything we try to do to obtain God's favor or gain salvation is worthless and futile.

Salvation is a Gift from God:

Salvation then, is a gift from God. He offers the gift through Jesus, his Son. By laying down his life on the cross, Christ took our place and paid the ultimate price, the penalty for our sin – death and made a new, on-going life with God possible.

John 14:6 - *"Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'"* (NLT)

Romans 5:8

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (NIV)

Responding to God's Invitation:

The only thing we must do is respond to God's invitation into an abiding relationship with Jesus himself through faith and prayer.

But how? How do I become a Christian?

Receiving God's gift of salvation is not complicated. The response to God's invitation is explained in these simple steps found in God's Word:

1) Admit you are a sinner and turn away from your sin.

Acts 3:19 says: *"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."* (NIV)

Repent literally means "a change of mind that results in a change of action." To repent, then, means change your mind to agree with God that you *are* a sinner. The resulting "change in action" is, of course, the turning away from sin and choosing to enter into a dynamic, life-long journey with Jesus in which you are becoming more like Him.

2) Believe Jesus Christ died on the cross to, not only save you from the consequences of your sins but ushers you into a "life with God" friendship and apprenticeship for living life in the kingdom of God.

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John 3:16 says: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."* (NLT)

Believing in Jesus is also a part of repenting. You change your mind from unbelief to belief, which results in not only being justified for your sins but causes us to recognize our need the on-going work of a Savior who transforms our lives.

3) Come to him by faith.

In John 14:6 Jesus said: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."* (NLT)

Faith in Jesus Christ is a change of mind that results in a change of action—coming to him.

4) You may pray a simple prayer to God.

You may want to make your response to God a prayer. Prayer is simply communicating with God. Pray using your own words. There is no special formula. Just pray from your heart to God, and believe *that he has* saved you. If you don't know what to pray, here's a prayer of salvation you can pray:

Dear God in heaven, I come to you in the name of Jesus. I acknowledge that I am a sinner, separated from relationship with you and I am sorry for my sins and the life that I have lived; I need your forgiveness.

I believe that Jesus Christ shed His precious blood on the cross at Calvary and died for my sins, and I am now willing to turn from my sin and take hold of my new life as a follower of Christ.

Right now I confess Jesus as the Lord of my life. With my heart, I believe that God raised Jesus from the dead and that same resurrection power now lives in me by His Spirit to help me walk daily with Christ.

Thank you Jesus for your unlimited grace which has saved me from my sins and offers a way of living more and more in the Kingdom of God by the Spirit of Christ now living in me. Lord Jesus, transform my life so that I may bring glory and honor to you alone and not to myself.

Amen

5) Tell someone about your decision.

Romans 10:9-10 says, *"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."* (NIV)

What should I do next?

Congratulations on your decision to recommit your life to Christ!

We commend you for listening and responding to the Holy Spirit's invitation to grow closer to Jesus! In fact, our Christian experience is all about a continual, daily attentiveness and surrender to the sway of the Spirit who draws us and transforms us to be like Jesus. Salvation is not just a one-time event; it's a way of living with God. Your decision to follow Christ was just the first step into a life-long, intentional journey of embracing the new life in Christ that is being birthed in us through the Spirit. It's a dynamic journey to the abundant life Jesus promised!

To start you on this life long journey, follow the "Believer in Christ" Pathway in the Intentional Journey.

