

Why Become a Christian?

Here's How to Begin a Personal Relationship with God.

Why should you become a Christian?

The best reason: *Because your Heavenly Father loves you, and He wants you back!* He loves you so much that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to sacrifice His life to make it possible for you to be forgiven, to come home, to be His child now and forever.

A second, compelling reason: *Because you will never find the answer to the deepest longings of your soul until you reconcile with your Heavenly Father.* All of us long to be loved unconditionally, completely and securely. And all of us hunger to know that our lives matter, that we have purpose, that we are fulfilling our destiny. If you are looking for love and purpose in anything other than a restored relationship with God, you will come up short. Deep in your heart, you know this.

Here's how to understand what it takes to become a Christian:

The Bible tells us how we can begin a real, authentic, personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. "Faith" involves hearing what God says to us in the Bible, and believing it to the point that we will act on it. Here is what God says to us. As you read the Scriptures below, please consider the possibility that God is speaking to you personally.

1. God declares His love for us.

John 3:16. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

God loves all of us. He created us to know joy in life in a loving relationship with Him. He wants to bless and make your life full and complete. He offers you not only an abundant life here and now, but also a life which is eternal.

2. Unfortunately, we are sinful, separated from God.

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

The saying, "Well, we are just human – nobody is perfect," is Biblically true. But we must face this ugly truth: As sinners, we are estranged from God, for He is holy. However, although you may have strayed from Him in your rebellion, independence, ignorance and sin, ***YOUR LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER WANTS YOU BACK!***

3. Our sin has a penalty – Death.

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

To continue in sin and rebellion will result in spiritual death, which is separation from God forever. The alternative is to humble yourself and return to your Heavenly Father for mercy and forgiveness, because . . .

4. Christ has already paid the penalty – by dying for us.

Romans 5:8. *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

This is "good news" indeed! God understands that we are helplessly, hopelessly lost apart from His intervention. He responded to our desperate need by sending His own Son, Jesus Christ, to die in our place, for our sin, on the cross.

5. Salvation is God's free gift to those who believe and receive Him.

Ephesians 2:8-9. *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."*

Grace means "undeserved favor." Jesus graciously did for us what we could never do for ourselves. God's gift to us is free. We don't deserve it because of our own good works. Faith is believing with all our hearts that Jesus Christ died for us personally to provide forgiveness and life. Then, faith takes action by receiving God's free gift.

6. Christ is knocking at the door of your heart and life.

Revelation 3:20. Jesus said, *“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”*

Christ not only died to save you, but He wants to save you. Picture, if you will, Jesus Christ standing at the door of your heart. Your heart is the “real” you –your thoughts, your feelings, your life values and choices. Invite Him in. He is waiting to be welcomed into your heart and life. He will come in and establish a personal friendship with you.

7. You can choose to receive Christ! So why not welcome Him into your life right now?

John 1:12. *“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”*

When you receive Christ into your heart, you will become a child of God. You may be asking, *“So how exactly do I do this – How do I receive Jesus?”* It is done through prayer. Prayer is simply talking to God. You can talk to Him right now. Tell Him that you want to receive His Son, Jesus Christ. Tell Him you believe Jesus died in your place and paid the penalty for your sins. This makes it personal. The Christian life is a personal relationship with God because of what Jesus Christ did on the cross. You can invite Jesus Christ into your heart right now, by praying to God something like this:

Prayer of Commitment:

Dear God in heaven: I need to talk to You about becoming a Christian. I admit my failure, my ignorance, my rebellion and selfishness. I need Your forgiveness. But I do believe that You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in my place, taking my guilt on Himself. I am moved by Your willingness to forgive me and Your offer of a new beginning. So I now turn from my selfishness and rebellion, and turn my life over to You. **Come into my heart, Lord Jesus!** I receive You right now, and the free gift of eternal life You offer. You are my only hope, my personal Savior and Friend. I am willing to follow and obey You as King of my life from now on. Thank You for hearing my prayer, and thank You for forgiving my sins, and for including me in the family of God.

NAME: _____ DATE OF PRAYER _____

You can absolutely trust the promises God gives you in the Bible.

Romans 10:9-13. *“That 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. . . . for, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”*

Just now, you received Christ by “calling upon the name of the Lord.” As you did, the following took place: Your sins were forgiven (Colossians 1:14); you became a child of God (John 1:12); you were made heir to all of God’s blessings (Romans 8:16-17); you now have everlasting life (John 3:16), and a true Friend (Revelation 3:20).

God bless you! You now have everlasting life.

1 John 5:11-13. *“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.”*

Eternal life is yours the moment that you believe. “Believe” means to take God at His Word and act on it. We are to trust in His promises. When we do, we can have assurance of His eternal love, sometimes experienced as peace and joy. But don’t trust your feelings only, for they will change. Trust God’s Word, which never changes. Review the Scriptures above often. By faith, you will be able to say with assurance, “I have received Christ. On the authority of God’s Word, I have eternal life.” May God grant you *“ . . . all joy and peace in believing.”* (Romans 15:13).

Welcome to the family of God! Share your good news with a friend today.