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Real Testimonies. Radical Transformations.

KYLE LAURIANO MINISTRY



HOW TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

THE COMPLETE, HONEST, UNASHAMED GUIDE TO GIVING YOUR LIFE TO JESUS

Everything You Need to Know About Becoming a Christian Your
Questions Answered | Your Doubts Addressed | Your Path Made
Clear

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INTRODUCTION

WELCOME

If you're reading this, you're either:

- Curious about Christianity
- Considering becoming a Christian
- Struggling with the decision
- Ready to commit
- Sent here by a friend
- Desperate for hope
- Searching for meaning
- Skeptical but open

No matter where you are, this guide is for you.

WHAT THIS GUIDE IS

This is a comprehensive, honest, practical guide to becoming a Christian. It's not a sales pitch. It's not a guilt trip. It's not simplified or glossed over.

It's the real deal.

We'll talk about:

- What the Gospel actually is
- Who can become a Christian

- What it really costs
- How to make the commitment
- What happens next
- How to move forward

We'll answer hard questions. We'll address real fears. We'll be honest about challenges.

And we'll point you to Jesus, who is the answer to everything.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Your life is temporary, but your eternity is permanent.

What you decide about Jesus determines where you'll spend eternity. It determines what your life means. It determines your present peace and your future joy.

This decision matters more than any other decision you'll make in your life.

PART 1: THE BASIC QUESTION

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

IT'S SIMPLER THAN YOU THINK

Becoming a Christian means:

- Acknowledging that you're a sinner
- Believing that Jesus Christ is God's Son
- Accepting that Jesus died for your sins and rose from the dead
- Trusting Jesus as your Savior and Lord
- Giving your life to follow Him
- Beginning a personal relationship with God through Christ

That's the foundation.

But what does this actually look like? How does it work practically?

THE FOUNDATION ELEMENTS

1. Acknowledgment You recognize that you're not okay on your own. You've sinned. You've broken God's law. You deserve judgment. This is honest self-assessment.

2. Belief You accept the Gospel as true. You believe Jesus is who He claimed to be. You believe His death paid for your sins. You believe His resurrection proves His power.

3. Trust You stop trusting yourself and start trusting Jesus. You're placing your confidence in Him, not in your own ability to fix yourself.

4. Commitment You're giving your life to Jesus. This isn't a casual decision. This is wholehearted commitment to follow Him, whether easy or difficult.

5. Relationship You're beginning a personal relationship with God through Christ. This isn't about rules or religion. This is about knowing God personally and intimately.

IT'S NOT ABOUT

- Being "good enough" (you never will be)
- Joining a club (it's not a membership)
- Following rules (it's about following a person)
- Being perfect (transformation is a process)
- Understanding everything (faith doesn't require complete understanding)
- Having your life together (Jesus meets you where you are)
- Being baptized first (baptism comes after, not before)
- Earning God's favor (favor is a gift)
- Proving yourself (you can't prove yourself to God)
- Religious performance (it's about reality, not appearance)

It's about relationship. It's about trust. It's about Jesus.

IS CHRISTIANITY REAL?

THE HISTORICAL REALITY

Jesus was a real historical figure.

This isn't disputed by serious scholars, even non-Christian ones.

Jesus:

- Lived in first-century Palestine
- Was baptized by John the Baptist
- Taught about God's kingdom
- Gathered followers
- Was crucified under Pontius Pilate
- Is documented in multiple historical sources

The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) provide eyewitness accounts. They're not secretly written centuries later—they're early, written within 30-40 years of the events.

Josephus (Jewish historian, not a Christian) mentions Jesus. Tacitus (Roman historian) mentions Jesus. The evidence is substantial.

Jesus was real. This is historically certain.

THE RESURRECTION EVIDENCE

Jesus claimed to be God and backed it up with the resurrection.

After His crucifixion, something happened that changed everything. The disciples didn't stay hidden and sad. They came out of hiding proclaiming that Jesus was alive.

What changed their minds? Something dramatic.

The evidence:

- They saw Jesus after resurrection (multiple appearances)
- They saw Him over a 40-day period
- Hundreds of people claimed to see Him
- They were willing to die for this claim (and did)
- They wouldn't die for something they knew was a lie
- The disciples' transformation was radical and inexplicable without the resurrection
- They were Jews who wouldn't break Sabbath—but they changed the holy day to Sunday
- The empty tomb is acknowledged even by non-Christian sources

The resurrection is the best-explained historical event of the ancient world.

THE CHANGED HISTORY

Christianity changed the world in unprecedented ways.

- 2+ billion Christians today
- Church has lasted 2,000 years
- Changed Western civilization completely

- Established hospitals, universities, charities
- Transformed culture, law, morality
- Gave hope to the hopeless
- Created community among strangers
- Has persisted through persecution, opposition, criticism

Something this influential doesn't come from nothing.

THE CONTINUING TRANSFORMATION

Jesus is still transforming lives today.

- People are being saved daily
- Addicts are being freed from addiction
- Broken people are being healed
- Empty people are finding meaning
- Angry people are finding peace
- Lonely people are finding community
- People with no hope are finding hope in Christ
- Criminals are becoming advocates for justice
- Self-centered people are becoming self-sacrificial

Christianity is alive. It's real. It's transforming people now.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

ETERNITY IS REAL

You will live forever. This is not a question. The question is: where will you spend eternity?

The Bible is clear: there is a heaven and there is a hell.

- **Heaven** is eternal communion with God, perfect joy, complete peace, no suffering, no pain, forever with Christ
- **Hell** is eternal separation from God, complete darkness, loneliness, judgment, experiencing the consequences of rejecting God

Your choice about Jesus determines your eternity.

YOU NEED TO BE SAVED

You're a sinner. This is the biblical reality. We all are. Sin has separated you from God.

Romans 3:23 says:

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Because of sin:

- You're separated from God
- You face judgment

- You deserve death
- You need salvation
- You can't save yourself

You need someone outside yourself to save you. That someone is Jesus.

YOUR LIFE NEEDS MEANING

Without purpose, life is empty. People know this instinctively. We're searching for meaning, direction, purpose.

The world offers temporary answers:

- Money and possessions (leaves you empty)
- Success and achievement (never enough)
- Relationships and romance (can disappoint)
- Pleasure and experiences (fade quickly)
- Personal fulfillment (inward-focused and hollow)

Only Jesus offers eternal meaning.

Only Jesus gives lasting purpose. Only Jesus provides direction that actually leads somewhere. Only Jesus satisfies the deepest longing of your soul.

YOUR FUTURE MATTERS

What happens after death?

Christianity gives a clear answer: you'll stand before God and give an account of your life. Your response to Jesus determines your outcome.

Other worldviews:

- Materialism: You die and that's it (but this doesn't satisfy)
- Eastern religions: Reincarnation or absorption into cosmic force (impersonal)
- Skepticism: Nobody knows, so don't worry about it (but this leaves you uncertain)

Only Christianity offers personal relationship with God after death.

YOU NEED TRANSFORMATION

Look at yourself honestly. Are you who you want to be?

Most people aren't. Most people:

- Know they should be better but can't seem to change
- See patterns they don't like but feel stuck
- Want to be different but don't know how
- Feel trapped by habits, desires, or patterns
- Try to change through willpower but fail repeatedly

You need transformation that's beyond your capability.

Jesus offers this transformation. Not through willpower alone. Not through self-improvement alone. But through His Spirit changing you from the inside out.

YOUR DECISION POINT

You're at a decision point. You can't remain neutral about Jesus. Every moment you delay is a choice.

Jesus said you're either with Him or against Him. There's no middle ground.

The question is not whether you'll decide about Jesus. The question is when you'll decide.

And the answer should be: today.

PART 2: UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

GOSPEL = GOOD NEWS

The word "gospel" literally means "good news" or "good tidings."

But what is the good news? What makes it good?

The Gospel is the announcement that:

- God loves you
- You're lost without Him
- Jesus came to save you
- Jesus died on the cross for your sins
- Jesus rose from the dead
- You can be forgiven
- You can have eternal life
- You can know God personally
- Starting now, forever

That's good news.

A MESSAGE OF HOPE

The Gospel is fundamentally hopeful. It says:

No matter who you are:

- Your past doesn't disqualify you

- Your present situation doesn't limit God
- Your future can be transformed
- There is hope for you

The Gospel is:

- Good news for the broken
- Forgiveness for the guilty
- Love for the unloved
- Purpose for the purposeless
- Hope for the hopeless
- Life for the dying
- Freedom for the enslaved
- Restoration for the ruined

THE PROBLEM: SIN

WHAT IS SIN?

Sin is fundamentally rebellion against God.

More specifically, sin is:

- Choosing your will over God's will
- Breaking God's law
- Rebellion against God's authority
- Missing the mark of God's perfection
- Trusting yourself instead of God
- Putting yourself in God's place
- Doing what you want instead of what God wants

Sin is the core problem of human existence.

TYPES OF SIN

Sin takes many forms:

Outward sins:

- Murder, theft, lying, sexual immorality
- Violence, abuse, cruelty
- These are obvious

Inward sins:

- Pride, envy, jealousy, anger
- Lust, greed, hatred
- These are often hidden but equally serious

Sins of omission:

- Not doing good you could do
- Not helping when you could
- Not standing up for justice
- Remaining silent when you should speak

All are sin. All are serious. All separate you from God.

WHY SIN MATTERS

Romans 6:23 says:

"For the wages of sin is death."

Sin has consequences:

Immediate consequences:

- Broken relationships
- Guilt and shame
- Emptiness and disconnection
- Spiritual death (separation from God)

Eternal consequences:

- Judgment
- Hell
- Separation from God forever
- No redemption possible after death

Sin is serious because it separates you from God. And separation from God is the definition of hell.

EVERYONE IS A SINNER

Romans 3:23 says:

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Not just "bad" people. Everyone.

You. Me. That "good" person. That religious person. That person who seems to have it all together. Everyone.

Why? Because sin is not just about doing bad things. Sin is about our fundamental orientation toward God.

We all:

- Prefer our will to God's will sometimes
- Are self-centered at times
- Act on our desires instead of God's guidance
- Put ourselves first
- Make ourselves the center of our lives

This is the human condition. We're all sinners.

THE SOLUTION: JESUS

WHO IS JESUS?

Jesus is God. Specifically, Jesus is God the Son—the second person of the Trinity.

Jesus:

- Existed before time
- Created everything
- Became human (the Incarnation)
- Lived a perfect life
- Never sinned
- Never disobeyed God
- Was fully God and fully human
- Performed miracles
- Taught truth
- Showed God's love

Jesus is God in human form.

WHY JESUS?

Why did God become human? Why did Jesus come to earth?

Jesus came to:

- Reveal God's character and love

- Show what a righteous life looks like
- Provide a perfect sacrifice for sin
- Make a way for humans to be reconciled to God
- Defeat death and sin
- Make eternal life possible

JESUS' DEATH

The crucifixion is the center of Christianity.

Jesus was arrested, tried, convicted, and executed by crucifixion.

He was innocent. He was killed by the people He came to save.

Why did He die?

1 Peter 2:24 says:

"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

Jesus took your sins upon Himself.

He:

- Died on the cross
- Paid the price for your sins
- Took the punishment you deserved
- Did it willingly

- Did it out of love

Jesus' death was substitutionary. He died in your place.

JESUS' RESURRECTION

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 says:

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

Jesus didn't stay dead.

He rose on the third day. He appeared to His disciples and to over 500 people. He proved His power. He opened the way to salvation.

The resurrection is the proof that Jesus is who He said He is.

The resurrection is the proof that His sacrifice worked.

JESUS OFFERS YOU FORGIVENESS

Everything comes together in this: **Jesus offers you forgiveness.**

You are a sinner. You face judgment. You need salvation.

Jesus died for your sins. Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus offers you forgiveness.

This is the Gospel. This is good news.

THE RESPONSE: FAITH

WHAT IS FAITH?

Faith is not just intellectual agreement. Faith is not just knowing facts about Jesus.

Faith is:

- Trusting Jesus with your life
- Believing He is who He claims to be
- Believing He did what He claims to have done
- Accepting His sacrifice for you
- Committing your life to Him
- Moving from belief to trust to commitment

Faith is trust. Faith is surrender. Faith is commitment.

WHAT FAITH IS NOT

Faith is not:

- Just going to church
- Just being a "good person"
- Just knowing Bible verses
- Just intellectual agreement
- Just hoping it works out
- Just positive thinking

- Just joining a club
- Just following rules

Real faith is trust. Real faith is commitment. Real faith is relationship.

HOW FAITH WORKS

Faith involves:

1. Hearing You hear the Gospel. Someone tells you about Jesus.

2. Understanding You understand what you're hearing. It makes sense. It addresses your need.

3. Believing You believe it's true. The evidence convinces you. Your heart is convinced.

4. Accepting You accept Jesus' sacrifice for you. You stop trying to earn God's favor and receive His grace.

5. Committing You commit your life to Jesus. You make Him your Lord. You surrender to His leadership.

6. Following You begin following Jesus. You're a disciple. You're learning to obey Him. You're growing.

This is faith. This is how it works.

THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS

JESUS WAS HONEST ABOUT COST

Jesus didn't recruit by minimizing what it would cost. He told people straight up: following Him will cost you something.

Luke 14:26-27 says:

"If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."

Jesus is saying: I'm asking for everything. If you're not willing to give Me your all, don't claim to follow Me.

WHAT THE COST INCLUDES

Following Jesus might cost:

Relationships:

- Some people might oppose your faith
- You might lose friends who don't understand
- Family might be against it
- Some relationships will end

Habits and Desires:

- Old ways of living must change
- Desires that contradict God's Word must change
- Habits you're comfortable with must end

Lifestyle:

- How you spend money changes
- How you spend time changes
- How you speak changes
- What you do for entertainment changes

Comfort:

- You'll face opposition
- You'll be counter-cultural
- You might be mocked
- You might face persecution

Pride:

- You have to humble yourself
- You have to admit you're wrong
- You have to acknowledge your need
- You have to surrender control

Success (Worldly Definition):

- Your priorities shift
- Career might not be #1

- Money might not be the goal
- Status doesn't matter like it used to

WHAT YOU GAIN

But here's the thing: **what you gain is infinitely greater than what you give up.**

You gain:

- Eternal life with God
- Forgiveness of all your sins
- Peace that passes understanding
- Purpose and meaning
- A relationship with God Himself
- The Holy Spirit's presence and power
- A family (the church)
- Hope
- Joy
- Love
- A transformed life

The cost is worth it.

PART 3: WHO CAN BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

GOD WANTS YOU

THIS IS GOD'S HEART

John 3:16 says:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

"Whosoever" = YOU

Not just good people. Not just religious people. Not just people who have it together.

WHOSOEVER:

- Rich or poor
- Young or old
- Religious or atheist
- Moral or immoral
- Educated or uneducated
- Healthy or sick
- Employed or unemployed
- Successful or struggling
- Any race, any ethnicity, any background

- Any situation, any circumstance

God wants you.

GOD'S DESIRE

1 Timothy 2:4 says:

"Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

God desires that all people be saved. This is not His reluctant plan
B. This is His heart.

God **wants** you to be saved. God is **eager** for you to come to Him.

God is not waiting for you to clean yourself up. God is not waiting for you to deserve it. God is not waiting for you to be good enough.

God is waiting for you to say yes.

THERE ARE NO DISQUALIFICATIONS

YOU MIGHT THINK YOU'RE TOO BAD

But the Gospel says: **there is no one too bad.**

The Bible includes these people who became Christians:

Peter:

- Denied even knowing Jesus
- Was afraid
- Made impulsive mistakes
- But Jesus chose him as His rock

Paul:

- Murdered Christians
- Persecuted the church
- Was filled with hatred
- But Jesus transformed him into the greatest missionary ever

Matthew:

- Tax collector
- Corrupt
- Working for the occupying power against his own people
- But Jesus chose him as an apostle

Mary Magdalene:

- Demon-possessed
- Likely involved in sexual immorality
- Broken and suffering
- But Jesus healed her and made her the first person to see Him after resurrection

The thief on the cross:

- Criminal
- Deserving execution
- Had moments to live
- But Jesus promised him, "Today you will be with me in paradise"

The woman at the well:

- Immoral
- Divorced five times
- Living with a man who wasn't her husband
- An outcast from her community
- But Jesus offered her living water and made her a missionary

Zacchaeus:

- Corrupt tax collector
- Hated by his community
- Small man (literally—representing how small he'd become through sin)

- But Jesus ate with him and transformed him

None of these people were qualified. All of them were saved.

DISQUALIFYING YOURSELF

You cannot disqualify yourself from God's grace.

Some people think: "I've sinned too much. I've gone too far. God couldn't possibly accept me."

But this is thinking wrongly about God's grace.

Grace is not given to those who deserve it. Grace is given despite not deserving it.

1 John 1:9 says:

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Notice: "all unrighteousness." Not some. Not most. All.

YOUR PAST DOESN'T MATTER

GOD DOESN'T HOLD YOUR PAST AGAINST YOU

Romans 8:1 says:

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus."

No condemnation. Your past is forgiven. It's gone. It's erased.

You might think your past disqualifies you. But it doesn't.

Even if your past includes:

- Murder
- Abuse
- Sexual assault
- Child abuse
- Rape
- Betrayal of trust
- Abandonment
- Theft
- Fraud
- Violence

- Any sin you can imagine

Jesus' blood cleanses from ALL sin.

YOU'RE A NEW CREATION

2 Corinthians 5:17 says:

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

When you become a Christian, the past is gone. You're a new creation. You start fresh.

Your past is:

- Forgiven
- Forgotten by God
- Erased
- Paid for
- Gone

God doesn't bring it up. God doesn't hold it against you. God treats you as if it never happened.

YOUR PRESENT SITUATION DOESN'T MATTER

WHERE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW DOESN'T DISQUALIFY YOU

You might be:

- In prison
- Homeless
- Unemployed
- Sick or dying
- Struggling with addiction
- In a broken marriage
- In rebellion
- Depressed or suicidal
- Mentally ill
- Disabled
- Any difficult situation

None of this matters to Jesus.

Jesus doesn't say: "Get your life together, then come to me."

Jesus says: "Come to me, just as you are. I'll help you get your life together."

He accepts you right now. Right where you are. Right in the middle of your mess.

YOUR DOUBTS DON'T DISQUALIFY YOU

YOU CAN BECOME A CHRISTIAN EVEN IF YOU HAVE DOUBTS

Many people become Christians while doubting:

- They doubt God exists
- They doubt the Bible
- They doubt Jesus
- They doubt Christianity is real
- They doubt they'll be accepted
- They doubt they can change

Doubts don't disqualify you.

John 20:24-29 tells about Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples. He didn't believe Jesus had risen. He said, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." But Jesus appeared to him, and Thomas believed. Jesus didn't punish Thomas for doubting. He met Thomas in his doubt.

Jesus welcomes your doubts.

Jesus says, in effect: "Your doubts are okay. Bring them to me. I'll address them. I'll help you believe."

WHY GOD ACCEPTS EVERYONE

GOD'S NATURE IS LOVE

1 John 4:8 says:

"God is love."

This is not just one of God's attributes. This is God's essential nature. God is love.

This means:

- God loves you with an infinite, eternal love
- God's love is not based on your performance
- God's love is not conditional
- God's love is unconditional
- God's love is for everyone

GOD'S SACRIFICE PROVES IT

Romans 5:8 says:

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Jesus died for you when you were still sinning. Not after you cleaned up your life. Not after you deserved it. While you were still a sinner.

This is proof of God's love. God loves you that much.

GOD'S OFFER IS TO EVERYONE

Revelation 22:17 says:

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

"Whosoever will."

This is an open invitation. It's for everyone. It's without restriction. It's free.

God is offering you eternal life, freely, right now.

PART 4: COMMON QUESTIONS SEEKERS ASK

"WHAT IF I DON'T BELIEVE?"

BELIEF IS A CHOICE

You might think: "I can't just decide to believe."

But actually, you can. More accurately, you can choose to become a believer.

Belief is:

- Accepting what you've been told
- Trusting in its truth
- Evaluating the evidence and deciding it's credible
- Acting on that belief

HOW BELIEF DEVELOPS

1. Exposure You hear the Gospel. You're presented with the claims of Christianity.

2. Consideration You think about it. You evaluate the evidence. You consider whether it's true.

3. Conviction You become convinced. The evidence is compelling. You see the logic. You sense the truth. The Holy Spirit works on your heart.

4. Decision You decide to believe. You choose to trust Jesus.

5. Action You act on that belief. You pray. You commit. You follow.

This is how belief develops. And you can choose each step.

IF YOU'RE NOT THERE YET

If you don't believe yet, pray honestly:

"God, if You're real, help me believe. I want to believe, but I'm struggling. I have doubts. Meet me in my doubts. Show me the truth. Help me have faith. I'm open to being convinced. Work in my heart."

God honors honest seeking.

Jesus said, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

If you genuinely seek God, He will reveal Himself to you.

"WHAT IF I HAVE DOUBTS?"

DOUBTS ARE NORMAL

Many great Christians had/have doubts:

- Thomas (Jesus' disciple) doubted
- John the Baptist doubted Jesus while in prison
- C.S. Lewis (one of Christianity's greatest defenders) had serious doubts
- Many mature, faithful Christians regularly face doubts

Doubt is not the opposite of faith. Doubt is part of faith.

DOUBT IS A DOORWAY

Doubt can become a doorway to deeper faith.

When you work through doubts:

- Your faith deepens
- Your belief strengthens
- Your understanding improves
- Your commitment becomes solid
- You move from blind faith to informed faith

Doubt, addressed honestly, leads to stronger faith.

COMMON DOUBTS

"What if the Bible isn't true?" Study it. The Bible is the most verified ancient text we have. It's reliable.

"What if Jesus didn't really rise from the dead?" Look at the evidence. The disciples wouldn't have died for a lie. Something convinced them. The resurrection is the best explanation.

"What if God isn't real?" Look at creation. Look at design. Look at your own experience. The evidence points to God's existence.

"What if God is mean/unfair/unjust?" Look at Jesus. Jesus shows you God's character. God is loving, just, and holy.

Bring your doubts to Jesus. He can handle them.

"WHAT IF I'VE DONE TERRIBLE THINGS?"

NOTHING DISQUALIFIES YOU FROM GOD'S GRACE

Jesus said:

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." (John 6:37)

"In no wise cast out." = Jesus will NOT reject you. Under any circumstances. For any reason.

No matter what you've done.

THE WORST CRIMES ARE FORGIVEN

History shows us:

- Murderers have become Christians
- Abusers have become Christians
- Rapists have become Christians
- Thieves have become Christians
- People guilty of every crime imaginable have become Christians

And they were all forgiven.

GOD'S GRACE IS GREATER

Romans 5:20 says:

"But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound."

God's grace is bigger than your sin. Much bigger.

For every sin you've committed, God's grace exceeds it. God's grace is not calculated. It's not limited. It's infinite.

Your sin is not too big for God's grace.

"WHAT IF MY FAMILY IS AGAINST IT?"

THIS WILL LIKELY HAPPEN

Jesus knew this would happen. He predicted it.

Matthew 10:34-36 says:

"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household."

Some families will oppose your faith.

This is real. It's hard. But Jesus predicted it would happen to His followers.

IT'S STILL WORTH IT

But there's hope:

1. Stand firm Your relationship with God is more important than family approval. Jesus is worth it.

2. Be respectful Respect your family even if they oppose your faith. Obey them in things that don't contradict God. Show them Christ through your life.

3. Pray for them Intercede for your family. Pray that they'll come to faith.

4. God will provide support Even if your family opposes, you'll have the church family. You'll have other believers supporting you.

5. God often works through time Over time, as they see the change in you, as they see your peace and joy, many families eventually come around.

Stand firm. Trust God. He will sustain you.

"WHAT ABOUT OTHER RELIGIONS?"

JESUS MADE AN EXCLUSIVE CLAIM

John 14:6 says:

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Jesus claimed to be the ONLY way to God.

Not "a way." THE way. Exclusive claim.

This is exclusive. It's also true.

WHY ONLY JESUS?

Because:

- Only Jesus is God
- Only Jesus died for your sins
- Only Jesus rose from the dead
- Only Jesus offers eternal life
- Only Jesus provides the way to reconciliation with God

Other religions might have truth in them. But salvation is through Jesus alone.

WHAT ABOUT PEOPLE WHO NEVER HEARD?

This is a good question. But Jesus said the Gospel should be preached to all nations. This is the responsibility of Christians.

God is just. God will judge fairly. But the Gospel is our responsibility to share.

"DO I HAVE TO CHANGE MY WHOLE LIFE?"

YES AND NO

Yes: Your life will be transformed over time. Old things will fall away. New priorities will emerge. You'll change.

No: You don't have to clean yourself up first. You don't have to be perfect. You don't have to change everything overnight.

HOW CHANGE HAPPENS

- 1. Initial surrender** You give your life to Jesus as you are now.
- 2. Holy Spirit begins working** The Spirit begins changing your desires, your habits, your priorities.
- 3. Gradual transformation** Over time, change happens. It's not always fast. It's not always easy. But it's real.
- 4. You cooperate with God** You cooperate with the Holy Spirit. You read Scripture. You pray. You connect with other believers. You obey God's leading.
- 5. You keep growing** Transformation is a lifelong process. You never arrive. You keep growing.

Your job is to surrender to Jesus. God does the changing.

"WHAT IF I CAN'T BE PERFECT?"

YOU WON'T BE. AND THAT'S OKAY.

Christianity isn't about perfection. Christianity isn't about never sinning. Christianity isn't about being good enough.

Christianity is about:

- Forgiveness (you'll be forgiven)
- Growth (you'll keep improving)
- Transformation (you'll be changed by God's Spirit)
- Relationship (you'll know God)
- Love (you'll be loved and love others)
- Grace (you'll be given what you don't deserve)

YOU'LL STILL SIN

1 John 1:8 says:

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

Even mature Christians sin. That's reality.

But you're also forgiven. Confession and repentance bring forgiveness and restoration.

You're not judged for sinning. You're judged for your response to sin.

If you confess and repent, you're forgiven and restored.

"HOW DO I KNOW IF I'M REALLY A CHRISTIAN?"

THE EVIDENCE

If you've genuinely given your life to Jesus, there will be evidence:

- 1. Belief in Jesus** You believe Jesus is God, died for your sins, rose again.
- 2. Change in direction** You're turning from sin, not perfectly, but genuinely.
- 3. Desire to follow** You want to follow Jesus and grow in faith.
- 4. Joy and peace** You experience a peace and joy that's hard to explain.
- 5. New loves** You love God, you love other believers, you love the Bible.
- 6. Transformation happening** People notice change in you. Over time, sin's power over you decreases.

These are signs you're really a Christian.

"WHAT ABOUT PEOPLE WHO SAY THEY'RE CHRISTIAN BUT DON'T ACT LIKE IT?"

HYPOCRISY IS REAL

Some people claim to be Christian but live contrary to Christ's teaching. This is real. It's a problem.

Jesus Himself addressed this:

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 7:21)

Just saying you're a Christian doesn't make you a Christian. Your life has to match your profession.

THIS DOESN'T INVALIDATE CHRISTIANITY

But here's the thing: **the hypocrisy of Christians doesn't invalidate Christ.**

If someone claims to be a Christian but lives immorally, that says something about them. It doesn't say Christ is false. It says they're not truly following Christ.

Judge Christ by Christ's teaching and life, not by the failures of those who claim to follow Him.

PART 5: THE STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

STEP 1: ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR SIN

UNDERSTAND WHERE YOU STAND

Recognize:

- You're a sinner
- You've broken God's law
- You deserve judgment
- You can't save yourself
- You need help
- You can't earn your way to God
- You can't be good enough
- You're helpless without God

This honest self-assessment is called conviction. It's the Holy Spirit working in your heart.

BE HONEST WITH GOD

Don't minimize your sin.

- Don't pretend you're better than you are
- Don't compare yourself to others
- Don't make excuses
- Don't justify yourself

- Be honest with yourself
- Be honest with God

God sees everything anyway. God sees into your heart. Be real.

THIS IS THE BEGINNING

Romans 3:23-24 says:

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."

Acknowledgment of sin is the beginning of salvation. From acknowledgment comes transformation.

STEP 2: BELIEVE IN JESUS

ACCEPT WHAT JESUS DID

Believe:

- Jesus is God's Son
- Jesus is God
- Jesus died for your sins
- Jesus rose from the dead
- Jesus conquered death
- Jesus offers you forgiveness
- Jesus offers you eternal life

This is the core belief.

TRUST HIM WITH YOUR LIFE

Trusting Jesus means:

- Accepting His sacrifice
- Receiving His forgiveness
- Believing His promises
- Following His leadership
- Giving Him control
- Making Him Lord

It's not just intellectual agreement. It's trust.

STEP 3: CONFESS JESUS AS LORD

DECLARE YOUR ALLEGIANCE

Romans 10:9 says:

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Confession = declaring that Jesus is Lord

This is:

- Public (not private)
- Real (not pretend)
- Serious (not casual)
- Binding (not temporary)

WHAT THIS MEANS

You're saying:

- Jesus is my Lord
- Jesus is my God
- Jesus is in charge of my life

- I'm following Him
- I'm committed to Him
- No one else is Lord

It's a decision. It's a commitment. It's a declaration.

STEP 4: SURRENDER YOUR LIFE

GIVE EVERYTHING TO JESUS

Surrender means:

- Your dreams
- Your desires
- Your plans
- Your money
- Your career
- Your relationships
- Your future
- Your ALL

You're no longer in charge. Jesus is.

MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT SURRENDER

Surrender doesn't mean:

- You become a robot (you don't lose your personality)
- Your personality disappears (it transforms, not disappears)
- You have no more joy (you have more joy)
- You lose your dreams (your dreams align with God's)

- You stop being yourself (you become your true self)
- God is mean to you (God loves you)
- Life becomes miserable (life becomes meaningful)

Surrender means God is in charge, not you.

STEP 5: MAKE IT PUBLIC

TELL SOMEONE

This is important:

- Tell the person who led you to Christ
- Tell your church
- Tell your family
- Tell your friends
- Tell someone

Making it public makes it real. It solidifies your commitment. It puts you on record.

STEP 6: FIND COMMUNITY

GET CONNECTED TO A CHURCH

You need:

- A local church family
- Other believers
- A mentor
- A small group or Bible study
- Community
- Accountability
- Support
- Teaching

Don't try to be a Christian alone.

PART 6: MULTIPLE PRAYERS TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN

IMPORTANT NOTE

It's not about the exact words. It's about your heart.

God cares about the sincerity of your heart, not the eloquence of your words.

Use these prayers as guides, but pray in your own words, expressing your honest heart to God.

If you're ready to give your life to Jesus, find a quiet place. Get alone with God. And pray one of these prayers, or pray in your own words.

PRAYER 1: THE SIMPLE PRAYER

"Jesus, I know I'm a sinner. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. In Jesus' name, Amen."

This is simple, direct, and hits the main points.

PRAYER 2: THE HONEST PRAYER

"God, I'm not sure about everything. I have doubts. I'm not completely sure You exist. But I believe You might. I believe Jesus might be who He claimed to be. I believe He might have died for me. I'm giving my life to Jesus. I'm asking Him to save me. Help me believe. Help me understand. Help me follow. In Jesus' name, Amen."

This prayer is for people with genuine doubts.

PRAYER 3: THE DESPERATE PRAYER

"God, I'm at the end of my rope. I've tried everything. Nothing works. I'm desperate. I need a miracle. I believe Jesus can save me. I believe His death paid for my sins. Jesus, please save me. Please forgive me. Please take over my life. I can't do this alone. I need You. Thank You for loving me. In Jesus' name, Amen."

This prayer is for people in crisis.

PRAYER 4: THE INTELLECTUAL PRAYER

"After considering the evidence, I believe Jesus is God. I believe the Gospel is true. I believe the Bible is reliable. I understand that I'm a sinner needing forgiveness. I understand that Jesus' death paid for my sins. I'm trusting Jesus as my Savior. I'm committing my life to following Him. Help me live out this commitment. In Jesus' name, Amen."

This prayer is for people who've thought through the evidence.

PRAYER 5: THE EMOTIONAL PRAYER

"Jesus, I feel Your love. I feel You calling me. I feel Your presence working in me. I'm overwhelmed by Your grace and mercy. I'm sorry for my sins. I'm accepting Your forgiveness. I'm giving my life to You. I want to follow You with all my heart. Thank You for loving me. Thank You for accepting me. Thank You for saving me. I'm Yours. In Jesus' name, Amen."

This prayer is for people moved by emotion (not just emotion, but emotion included).

PRAYER 6: THE BROKEN PRAYER

"God, I'm broken. I'm damaged. I'm ashamed of what I've done. I'm sorry for all of it. I don't deserve Your forgiveness. But I'm asking for it anyway. Jesus, please heal me. Please forgive me. Please make me new. I'm giving my broken, messy life to You. Do whatever You want with me. I trust You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

This prayer is for people who feel broken and ashamed.

PRAYER 7: THE REPENTANT PRAYER

"God, I recognize that I've been living my own way. I've been in rebellion against You. I've hurt people. I've hurt You. I'm truly sorry. I'm turning around. I'm turning from my sins. Jesus, I'm accepting You as my Savior and Lord. I'm committing to follow You. Help me turn away from the old life. Help me embrace the new life. Thank You for giving me a second chance. Thank You for forgiving me. In Jesus' name, Amen."

This prayer is for people genuinely repenting.

PRAYER 8: THE SURRENDER PRAYER

"Jesus, I surrender my life to You. I give You everything. My past, my present, my future. Everything. I'm not in control anymore. You are. I'm trusting You. I'm following You. I'm committing my life to You. Work in me. Change me. Transform me. Use me for Your glory. I'm Yours completely. In Jesus' name, Amen."

This prayer emphasizes complete surrender.

PRAYER 9: THE COMMITMENT PRAYER

"Jesus, I commit my life to You today. This is serious. This is forever. You're my Lord. You're my Savior. You're my God. I'm following You no matter what. Through easy and hard, I'm following You. I'm committing my whole heart to You. Take my life and use it for Your kingdom. I'm Yours. In Jesus' name, Amen."

This prayer emphasizes deep commitment.

PART 7: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

IMMEDIATE CHANGES

SPIRITUAL CHANGES

Immediately when you become a Christian:

1. Your sins are forgiven

- Every sin: past, present, and future
- All covered by Jesus' blood
- Completely erased
- You're clean
- You're forgiven
- Not partially. Completely.

2. You're adopted into God's family

- God becomes your Father
- You become His child
- You're part of His family forever
- You belong
- You're accepted
- You're loved

3. The Holy Spirit enters you

- God's Spirit lives in you
- Guiding you

- Empowering you
- Transforming you
- Comforting you
- Working in you

4. Your destiny changes

- Instead of hell, heaven
- Instead of separation, communion
- Instead of judgment, grace
- Instead of death, life eternal
- Instead of darkness, light
- Your eternity is secure

LIFE CHANGES

Your life will begin to change:

Not overnight. Transformation takes time. But real change begins.

Over time:

- Your desires change
- Your priorities shift
- Your habits break
- Your perspectives transform
- You become more like Jesus

- Your character develops
- Your relationships improve
- Your sense of purpose increases

WHAT YOU'RE NOW PART OF

THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

The universal church includes:

- 2+ billion Christians worldwide
- Believers from every nation, race, ethnicity, culture
- History spanning 2,000 years
- God's kingdom on earth
- People throughout history who've trusted Jesus
- People across the globe who follow Christ today

You're part of something bigger than yourself. Something global. Something eternal.

YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

Your local church is:

- Your congregation
- Your community of believers
- Your spiritual family
- Your support system
- Your place to worship
- Your place to serve
- Your place to grow

- Your place to belong

Find a local church and get involved.

YOUR NEW LIFE BEGINS

WHAT COMES NEXT (IMMEDIATE)

1. Get baptized

- Public declaration of faith
- Identification with Christ's death and resurrection
- Obedience to Jesus' command
- Within weeks of becoming a Christian
- Essential step

2. Join a church family

- Find a local congregation
- Get involved
- Serve
- Grow with others
- Be part of community

3. Start reading the Bible

- Begin with John's Gospel
- Read daily
- Let God's Word transform you
- Understand His love and plan
- Take time to listen to God

4. Start praying regularly

- Talk to God daily
- Bring Him your needs
- Thank Him for blessings
- Share your heart
- Grow in intimacy with Him

5. Find a mentor

- Someone to guide you
- Someone to answer questions
- Someone to walk with you
- Someone to hold you accountable
- Someone ahead of you spiritually

6. Join a small group

- Bible study or discipleship group
- Deeper community
- Accountability
- Growth together
- Real relationships

7. Tell others

- Share your story
- Tell people about Jesus
- Be a witness

- Let your life point to Christ

FIRST STEPS AFTER SALVATION

WEEK 1

- Tell someone about your decision
- Find a local church
- Start reading the Bible (John 1)
- Pray daily
- Find a mentor or talk to your pastor

WEEK 2

- Attend church
- Start a daily prayer and Bible time
- Tell your family
- Join a small group or Bible study
- Pray for people you know

WEEK 3

- Continue church attendance
- Deepen your Bible study
- Connect with other believers
- Ask about baptism
- Serve in some capacity

WEEK 4

- Plan your baptism
- Get baptized
- Solidify your commitment
- Celebrate your new life

WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE FIRST YEAR

FIRST 3 MONTHS: HONEYMOON PHASE

- Everything feels new
- Joy and excitement
- Spiritual high
- Easy obedience
- Quick growth
- Life feels transformed

Enjoy this! It's wonderful. But know that...

MONTHS 3-6: REALITY SETS IN

- The novelty wears off
- Old temptations return
- You realize how much growth you need
- Spiritual disciplines become more disciplined
- You struggle sometimes
- Doubt might creep in
- This is normal

Don't be discouraged. This is where real faith develops.

MONTHS 6-12: BUILDING FOUNDATIONS

- You're establishing spiritual habits
- Prayer and Bible reading become less exciting, more real
- You're growing in understanding
- You're building community
- You're facing real challenges
- You're seeing real change
- This is where you're building the foundation

YEAR ONE MILESTONES

- Consistent church attendance
- Regular prayer and Bible study
- Baptism completed
- Small group or Bible study involvement
- Some friendships with other believers
- Spiritual mentor established
- Beginning to see lasting change in your life
- Developed some spiritual disciplines
- Growing understanding of Scripture
- Deeper relationship with God

PART 8: ADDRESSING FEARS AND OBJECTIONS

"WHAT IF I'M NOT SINCERE ENOUGH?"

SINCERITY COMES FROM THE HEART

God looks at your heart, not your perfection. God doesn't evaluate your sincerity by your words. God evaluates it by your heart.

If you genuinely:

- Want to follow Jesus
- Are sorry for your sins
- Believe in Jesus
- Commit your life to Him

Then you're sincere enough.

Jesus looks at your heart. He judges your sincerity not by your words but by your heart.

"WHAT IF GOD DOESN'T ACCEPT ME?"

GOD ALWAYS ACCEPTS THOSE WHO COME TO HIM

John 6:37 says:

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

Jesus promises He will NOT cast you out.

- Not if you're too bad
- Not if you're too broken
- Not if you're too far gone
- Not if you're too dirty
- Not if you're too guilty
- Not if you're too ashamed

Jesus WILL accept you.

This is a promise. This is guaranteed.

"WHAT IF I CAN'T STAY FAITHFUL?"

GOD WON'T LET YOU GO

Philippians 1:6 says:

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

God BEGINS a good work. God COMPLETES it.

God doesn't save you and then abandon you. God doesn't start your transformation and then leave you. God doesn't begin the work and then let you fail.

God sees your journey through.

IF YOU BACKSLIDE

Even if you backslide (which means returning to old ways):

- You're still saved
- You can come back
- God will forgive
- Restoration is possible
- Your identity doesn't change

- God doesn't give up on you

God won't let you go.

"WHAT IF I NEED TO 'CLEAN UP' FIRST?"

YOU DON'T. YOU CAN'T.

Some people think they need to clean up their life before coming to Jesus. They think Jesus wants people who are already good.

But this is backwards.

Come to Jesus as you are:

- Broken
- Dirty
- Guilty
- Addicted
- Ashamed
- Rebellious
- Messed up
- Whatever

Jesus will clean you up.

You don't clean yourself first. Jesus cleans you as you come to Him. Jesus accepts you as you are and transforms you from there.

"WHAT IF BECOMING A CHRISTIAN COSTS TOO MUCH?"

YES. IT MIGHT COST.

Following Jesus might cost:

- Relationships (if others oppose it)
- Habits (old desires must change)
- Lifestyle (how you live changes)
- Comfort (you'll face opposition)
- Pride (you have to humble yourself)
- Money (you'll give more generously)
- Time (you'll prioritize differently)
- Career (your job might not be #1)

The cost is real.

BUT WHAT YOU GAIN IS INFINITELY GREATER

What you gain is infinitely greater:

- Eternal life
- Forgiveness
- Purpose

- Community
- Peace
- Joy
- Love
- Meaning
- Transformation
- God Himself

The cost is worth it.

"WHAT IF I LOSE MY FRIENDS?"

SOME YOU MIGHT. AND YOU'LL MAKE NEW ONES.

Some "friends" might distance themselves:

- They don't understand your faith
- They feel judged (though you're not judging)
- They can't relate to the new you
- They're uncomfortable with change
- They don't want to live differently

This is real. It's sad. But it happens.

BUT YOU'LL GAIN NEW FRIENDS

But you'll gain new friends:

- Other believers
- Your church family
- Your small group
- People who share your values
- People who share your faith
- Real friendships built on something deeper than parties or fun
- Friendships that last

The trade is worth it.

"WHAT IF I CAN'T STOP SINNING?"

EVEN CHRISTIANS SIN

1 John 1:8 says:

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

Even mature Christians sin. That's reality.

IT'S NOT ABOUT PERFECTION

Christianity isn't about never sinning. It's about:

- Direction (are you following Jesus?)
- Trend (are you growing in holiness?)
- Response (are you confessing and repenting?)
- Heart (are you committed to following Jesus?)

You're not expected to be perfect. You're expected to be growing.

CONFESSON BRINGS FORGIVENESS

1 John 1:9 says:

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

When you sin:

- Acknowledge it
- Confess it to God
- Ask for forgiveness
- Receive forgiveness
- Move forward

You're not judged for sinning. You're forgiven when you confess.

"WHAT ABOUT MY PAST?"

YOUR PAST IS FORGIVEN

Isaiah 43:25 says:

"I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins."

Your past is:

- Forgiven
- Forgotten by God
- Erased
- Paid for
- Gone

God doesn't bring it up. God doesn't hold it against you. God treats you as if it never happened.

YOU'RE A NEW CREATION

2 Corinthians 5:17 says:

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

When you become a Christian, the past is gone. You're a new creation. You start fresh.

PART 9: DEEPENING YOUR UNDERSTANDING

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT SALVATION

SALVATION IS THROUGH JESUS ALONE

John 3:36 says:

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Believe in Jesus = eternal life **Don't believe in Jesus = judgment**

There are no alternatives. Jesus is the way.

SALVATION IS IMMEDIATE

When you give your life to Jesus:

- You're immediately saved
- You immediately receive eternal life
- Your destiny changes immediately
- You become a new creation immediately
- Your relationship with God begins immediately

Not eventually. Not after proving yourself. Now.

SALVATION IS FOREVER

Hebrews 10:14 says:

"For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."

You're perfected forever. Not temporarily. Forever.

You cannot lose your salvation. God's commitment to you doesn't waver. You're secure.

WHAT JESUS PROMISED HIS FOLLOWERS

PEACE

John 14:27 says:

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you."

Jesus gives peace.

Not the absence of problems. But peace in the midst of them. A peace that passes understanding. A peace that comes from knowing God.

PURPOSE

1 Peter 4:10 says:

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

Jesus gives you gifts and purpose.

Your life means something. You have a role in God's kingdom. You're not just existing. You're living for something.

TRANSFORMATION

2 Corinthians 5:17 says:

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Jesus transforms you into a new creation.

You're not just forgiven. You're transformed.

GUIDANCE

John 16:13 says:

"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth."

The Holy Spirit guides you into truth and wisdom.

You're not alone in figuring life out. The Spirit works in you.

RELATIONSHIP

John 10:11 says:

"I am the good shepherd."

Jesus cares for you personally. You're not a number. You're known.
You're loved. You're cared for.

WHAT GOD'S GRACE MEANS

GRACE IS UNMERITED FAVOR

You don't deserve God's favor. You can't earn it. You can't work for it. God gives it freely.

That's grace.

Grace is not based on:

- Your performance
- Your merit
- Your work
- Your accomplishment
- Your righteousness
- Your goodness

Grace is based on God's character and God's love.

GRACE IS POWERFUL

2 Corinthians 12:9 says:

"My grace is sufficient for thee."

God's grace is enough for whatever you face.

Temptation. Weakness. Struggle. Loss. Grief. Failure. God's grace is sufficient.

GRACE IS FREE

Ephesians 2:8-9 says:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

You're saved by grace. It's a gift. It's free. You can't earn it.

WHAT TRANSFORMATION LOOKS LIKE

IT'S A PROCESS

Romans 12:2 says:

"Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Transformation = renewing of your mind

This takes time. This takes intentionality. This takes faith. This isn't overnight. This is lifelong.

IT'S PROGRESSIVE

Transformation happens gradually:

- **Year 1:** You see major breakthroughs
- **Year 2-5:** Slower, deeper changes
- **Year 5-10:** Character development, spiritual maturity
- **Year 10+:** Deep wisdom, supernatural peace

It's a journey, not a destination.

IT'S REAL

But it's also real:

- Your desires change
- Your habits break
- Your thought patterns improve
- Your relationships heal
- Your priorities shift
- Your heart transforms
- Over time, you become more like Jesus

UNDERSTANDING JUSTIFICATION, SANCTIFICATION, AND GLORIFICATION

JUSTIFICATION

Justification is what happens when you become a Christian.

You're declared righteous. Your sins are forgiven. You're made right with God. This happens immediately when you believe.

Past tense: You have been justified.

SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is what happens after you become a Christian.

You're being made holy. You're being transformed. Your character is being changed. Your desires are being renewed. This is an ongoing process.

Present tense: You are being sanctified.

GLORIFICATION

Glorification is what happens when you get to heaven.

You're made perfect. Your body is resurrected. You're fully transformed. You're with Jesus forever. This is the culmination.

Future tense: You will be glorified.

ALL THREE ARE REAL

Romans 8:29-30 says:

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son: and whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."

All three are part of God's plan for you.

THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is God. The third person of the Trinity. Not a force or influence. A person.

The Holy Spirit is:

- God's presence in you
- God's power working through you
- God's guidance directing you
- God's comfort strengthening you
- God's truth teaching you

WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES

1. Convicts you of sin The Spirit shows you sin and your need for Jesus.

2. Reveals Jesus to you The Spirit helps you understand Jesus and trust Him.

3. Enters you at salvation The Spirit comes to live in you when you become a Christian.

4. Empowers you The Spirit gives you power to obey, to resist temptation, to grow.

5. Guides you The Spirit directs your decisions and path.

6. Comforts you The Spirit brings comfort in times of suffering.

7. Transforms you The Spirit changes your character and makes you more like Jesus.

8. Intercedes for you The Spirit prays for you when you don't know what to pray.

PART 10: MOVING FORWARD

YOUR NEXT 24 HOURS

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- 1. Tell Someone** Tell the person who led you to Christ. Tell your family. Tell a friend. Make it real.
- 2. Find a Bible** Get a Bible you can read and understand. Physical or digital. Get one today.
- 3. Start Reading** Read John 1 today. Just one chapter. Start listening to God's Word.
- 4. Pray** Talk to God. Thank Him. Ask for guidance. Share your heart.
- 5. Celebrate** Celebrate what happened. You're a Christian now. Your life is transformed. Your eternity is changed.

YOUR FIRST WEEK

ESSENTIAL WEEK 1 ACTIONS

Monday: Tell someone about your decision **Tuesday:** Attend church **Wednesday:** Establish prayer time (just 5 minutes) **Thursday:** Read John 2 and 3 **Friday:** Find a mentor or talk to your pastor **Saturday:** Join a small group or Bible study **Sunday:** Go back to church

KEY HABITS TO ESTABLISH

Daily prayer: Talk to God each day. Morning or evening. It doesn't have to be long.

Daily Bible reading: Read from John's Gospel. A chapter or two. Let God speak to you.

Weekly church: Go to church every Sunday. Get plugged in.

Tell others: Keep telling people about your decision.

YOUR FIRST MONTH

MONTH 1 MILESTONES

Week 1: Get saved and tell someone **Week 2:** Get baptized (talk to your pastor) **Week 3:** Start small group **Week 4:** Establish daily rhythms (prayer, Bible reading, church)

PRIORITY TASKS

1. Regular Church Attendance

- Every Sunday
- Get plugged in
- Find your fit

2. Daily Spiritual Disciplines

- Bible reading and prayer daily
- Even just 10-15 minutes
- Create the habit

3. Baptism

- Plan and complete your baptism
- Public declaration of faith
- Important step

4. Small Group Connection

- Join a community

- Build relationships
- Get support

5. Mentoring Begins

- Meet with your mentor
- Regular meetings
- Ask questions

6. Begin Serving

- Find a way to serve at church
- Use your gifts
- Give back

YOUR FIRST YEAR

QUARTER 1 (MONTHS 1-3)

- Honeymoon phase
- Everything feels new
- Establish core spiritual habits
- Get baptized
- Join small group
- Meet with mentor

QUARTER 2 (MONTHS 4-6)

- Reality sets in
- Spiritual disciplines become more real
- Temptations return
- You realize how much growth you need
- Stay faithful
- Press through

QUARTER 3 (MONTHS 7-9)

- Building foundation
- Spiritual habits more established
- Growing understanding of Scripture
- Friendships with believers deepening

- Seeing real change
- Trusting God more

QUARTER 4 (MONTHS 10-12)

- A year of growth
- Looking back and seeing progress
- Spiritual maturity developing
- Ready to help others
- Ready to go deeper
- Ready for year two

FINDING COMMUNITY

WHY COMMUNITY MATTERS

You need:

- Encouragement
- Accountability
- Teaching
- Support
- Family
- Friendship
- Growth

You can't be a Christian alone. You need community.

TYPES OF COMMUNITIES

1. Local Church Your gathered church. Weekly worship. Corporate experience.

2. Small Group Bible study, discipleship, or fellowship group. Deeper relationships.

3. One-on-One Mentoring Someone investing in your spiritual development.

4. Church Ministries Groups organized around needs or interests (youth, singles, parents, etc.).

5. Online Communities While not a substitute for local church, can provide connection and encouragement.

Get involved in all the community you can.

RESOURCES YOU'LL NEED

ESSENTIAL RESOURCES

1. A Bible

- Get a physical or digital Bible
- NIV, NKJV, NLT, or ESV recommended
- Get one this week
- Read from it daily

2. A Bible App

- YouVersion (free)
- Read Bible plans
- Read anywhere, anytime
- Great for daily reading

3. A Church

- Local congregation
- Where you worship
- Where you serve
- Where you belong

4. A Mentor

- Mature Christian
- Ahead of you spiritually

- Willing to invest in your growth
- Someone to ask questions
- Someone to walk with you

5. A Small Group

- Bible study or discipleship
- Deeper relationships
- Accountability and support
- Regular community

6. Prayer Support

- Find people to pray with you
- Join a prayer group
- Have an accountability partner
- Pray for each other

7. Recommended Reading

- **The Bible:** Read through the Gospels, then the New Testament, then the whole Bible
- **"The Purpose Driven Life"** by Rick Warren: Understanding your purpose as a Christian
- **"Mere Christianity"** by C.S. Lewis: Understanding Christian faith
- **"Knowing God"** by J.I. Packer: Understanding God's character
- **"The Shack"** by William P. Young: A story about God's character

- **"Redeeming Love"** by Francine Rivers: A story showing God's grace

THE LIFELONG JOURNEY

YOU'RE JUST BEGINNING

Your journey with Jesus:

- Doesn't end at salvation
- Continues for your whole life
- Deepens over time
- Transforms over time
- Grows over time

The best is yet to come.

SEASONS OF GROWTH

Early faith: Excitement, discovering Jesus, rapid growth

Establishment: Building habits, going deeper, facing real challenges

Maturity: Deeper wisdom, stability, helping others

Excellence: Spiritual depth, influence, legacy

You'll go through all these seasons.

WHAT AWAITS

As you follow Jesus:

- You'll grow spiritually

- You'll understand God better
- You'll experience His presence
- You'll impact others
- You'll see His faithfulness
- You'll experience His love
- You'll become more like Christ

It's a wonderful journey.

YOUR PURPOSE AS A CHRISTIAN

YOUR PURPOSE IS THREEFOLD

1. Know God

- Intimately
- Personally
- Deeply
- Forever
- Grow in relationship with Him

2. Become Like Christ

- In character
- In love
- In holiness
- In service
- Transform into His image

3. Share Jesus With Others

- Your family
- Your friends
- Your community
- The world

- Make disciples

That's your calling. That's your life.

EPILOGUE: THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

THIS IS YOUR BEGINNING

You've read this guide. You understand what Christianity is about.

You know what it costs. You know what you gain.

Now it's decision time.

THE QUESTION

Will you give your life to Jesus?

Will you:

- Acknowledge that you're a sinner?
- Believe that Jesus died for your sins and rose again?
- Confess Jesus as your Lord?
- Surrender your life to Him?
- Begin this journey?

The question is yours to answer.

THE INVITATION

Jesus invites you:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Jesus is inviting you to Himself.

TAKE THE STEP

DON'T DELAY

Some people read guides like this and think, "I'll do this later. I'll think about it more. I'll pray about it."

But later never comes.

Now is the time. Today is the day.

Pray one of the prayers in this guide. Or pray in your own words.

Give your life to Jesus. Today.

PRAY NOW

Find a quiet place. Get alone with God. And pray.

If you're ready, pray something like:

"God, I've read this guide. I understand the Gospel. I understand that I'm a sinner and I need Jesus. I believe Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead. I'm giving my life to Jesus. I'm trusting Him as my Savior and Lord. Change me. Transform me. Guide me. I'm Yours. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Pray it. Mean it. You're saved.

WELCOME HOME

When you become a Christian:

- You're joining the family of God
- You're part of something bigger than yourself
- You're secure in God's love
- Your eternity is with Jesus
- Your life has purpose
- Your sins are forgiven
- You're a new creation

Welcome home.

YOUR IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS

RIGHT NOW

1. **Tell someone** that you've decided to follow Jesus
2. **Find a Bible** and start reading John's Gospel
3. **Find a local church** and plan to attend this Sunday

THIS WEEK

4. **Get baptized** (talk to your pastor about how)
5. **Find a mentor** to guide your spiritual journey
6. **Join a small group** or Bible study

THIS MONTH

7. **Attend church regularly**
8. **Establish daily prayer and Bible reading**
9. **Tell your family and friends**
10. **Begin serving in your church**

ONE FINAL PRAYER

"God, I give my life to You. I'm trusting Jesus as my Savior and Lord. Forgive me. Transform me. Guide me. Use me for Your glory. I'm Yours completely. Forever. In Jesus' name, Amen."

THE END

But really, it's THE BEGINNING.

Your life with Jesus is just starting. The best is ahead. The adventure continues.

If you've prayed to give your life to Jesus, TELL SOMEONE.

Your church. A friend. The person who gave you this resource. Let your commitment be known.

Celebrate. Your life is transformed. Your journey with Jesus begins now.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY OF GOD. WELCOME TO ETERNAL LIFE. WELCOME TO JESUS. WELCOME HOME.

For more resources and to connect with other believers, visit your local church or reach out to a Christian friend. Your church will help you take next steps and grow in your faith.

The journey continues. You're not alone. God is with you. The church is with you. Welcome.