

STAGE: SEEKER

READY TO FOLLOW JESUS

A COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE DECISION

Real Testimonies. Radical Transformations.

Your Complete Guide to Making the Decision, Committing Your Life, and Starting Your Journey as a Believer

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Ready to Follow Jesus

Your Complete Guide to Making the Decision, Committing Your Life, and Starting Your Journey as a Believer. A Comprehensive Resource for Those Considering Following Jesus — for seekers considering faith, people about to commit, new believers, and anyone helping others make this crucial decision.

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INTRODUCTION: THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION

You've picked up this guide because you're considering something big.

Maybe you're:

- Seriously considering becoming Christian
- Almost there but have final questions
- Afraid and need reassurance
- Curious about what commitment involves
- Helping someone else make this decision
- Doubting whether you're ready

First: This is normal.

Making the decision to follow Jesus is the most important choice you'll ever make. It deserves careful thought, honest questions, and real examination.

What This Resource Provides

This guide walks you through:

- Understanding what becoming Christian actually means
- Assessing whether you're ready
- Removing barriers holding you back
- Making the actual commitment
- Beginning your new life as believer
- Taking next steps

This Is Honest Territory

This resource doesn't:

- Pretend Christianity is easy
- Ignore difficult questions
- Rush the decision
- Minimize the cost
- Sugarcoat challenges

It does:

- Answer real objections
- Address legitimate concerns
- Explain clearly
- Honor your questions
- Support your decision

My Invitation

I'm Kyle. I was skeptic for years. I asked hard questions. I investigated thoroughly. Then I made the decision to follow Jesus.

That decision changed my entire life. Not because it was easy. But because it was real.

I'm writing this to help you navigate this decision honestly and fully.

Let's start.

PART 1 — UNDERSTANDING THE DECISION

Chapter 1: What Does It Mean to Follow Jesus?

The Basic Definition

Following Jesus means:

- Believing He is God's Son
- Accepting His death paid for your sins
- Committing your life to Him
- Turning from sin toward righteousness
- Living according to His teachings

It's NOT:

- Joining a club
- Following rules
- Earning salvation
- Becoming perfect
- Leaving the world

It IS:

- Personal relationship with God
- Transformation beginning
- New direction for life
- Spiritual rebirth
- Entrance into God's family

Jesus' Own Description

Matthew 16:24 (KJV):

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

Jesus' followers:

- Deny themselves (not self-centered)
- Take up their cross (accept death to old self)
- Follow Jesus (make Him central)

What Following Jesus Includes

1. Belief. You believe Jesus is: God's Son; died for your sins; rose from dead; alive today; your Savior and Lord.

1 John 1:2 (KJV):

“(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)”

2. Repentance. You turn from sin, self-centeredness, rebelliousness, independence from God, living your own way. And turn toward righteousness, God-centeredness, submission to God, dependence on God, following His way.

Acts 3:19 (KJV):

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;”

3. Commitment. You commit to following Jesus, obeying His teachings, joining His church, living out your faith, growing spiritually, becoming like Him.

Proverbs 23:26 (KJV):

“My son, give me thine heart: and let thine eyes observe my ways.”

4. Relationship. You enter personal relationship with God, permanent connection to God, life-long journey with Jesus, community with other believers, adventure of faith.

John 10:27-28 (KJV):

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”

The Beginning, Not The End

Important to understand: **Becoming Christian is beginning, not destination.**

1 Peter 2:2 (KJV):

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”

Like physical birth, spiritual birth is beginning of life, not completion.

You'll:

- Grow over time
- Learn progressively
- Develop character gradually
- Understand more deeply
- Become increasingly like Jesus

But this growth happens after you become Christian, not before.

Chapter 2: The Gospel Explained Simply

The Gospel in One Sentence

God loves you so much He died for you so you could be forgiven and live forever with Him.

The Gospel Explained Fully

Part 1: God Is Love. God is not distant, angry, or indifferent.

1 John 4:8 (KJV):

“God is love.”

This is foundational. Everything flows from this.

God loves:

- You personally
- People unconditionally
- Sinners despite their sin
- The broken-hearted
- The lost
- You specifically

1 John 4:10 (KJV):

“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Part 2: You're Loved But Flawed. God loves you. But you have a sin problem.

You've:

- Broken God's laws
- Done things wrong
- Hurt people
- Acted selfishly
- Rebelled against God
- Separated yourself from Him

Romans 3:23 (KJV):

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

Sin's consequence:

- Separation from God
- Spiritual death
- Broken relationship
- Guilt and shame
- Eternity without God

Romans 6:23 (KJV):

“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Part 3: Jesus Died For You. God didn't leave you in this mess.

God sent His Son, Jesus, who:

- Lived perfectly (no sin)
- Died on cross (taking your punishment)
- Rose from dead (proving His power)
- Offers forgiveness (at no cost to you)
- Extends relationship (to all who believe)

Romans 5:8 (KJV):

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

Jesus' death was:

- Substitution (He died instead of you)
- Payment (He paid sin's debt)
- Offering (He gave Himself)
- Love (He did it for you)

1 Peter 3:18 (KJV):

“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.”

Part 4: You Can Receive Forgiveness. Jesus' death makes forgiveness possible. But you must receive it.

John 1:12 (KJV):

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.”

Receiving means:

- Believing Jesus died for you
- Accepting His forgiveness
- Committing your life to Him
- Making Him Lord
- Following His way

Ephesians 2:8-9 (KJV):

“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.”

Part 5: You'll Live Forever. With Jesus, death isn't end.

John 11:25-26 (KJV):

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?”

Following Jesus gives:

- Eternal life (forever with God)
- Resurrection (like Jesus rose)
- God’s presence (forever)
- Relationship restored (with your Creator)

1 John 5:11-12 (KJV):

“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”

The Gospel’s Promise

To everyone who believes:

- Your sins forgiven
- Guilt removed
- Relationship with God restored
- Spirit of God living in you
- Eternal life guaranteed
- Heaven awaits

Chapter 3: What Jesus Offers You

Offer #1: Forgiveness of All Your Sins

Every sin—past, present, future—is forgiven.

1 John 1:9 (KJV):

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

This includes:

- Sins before becoming Christian (all forgiven)
- Sins after becoming Christian (all forgiven through confession)
- Sins you don’t even remember (all forgiven)
- Worst sins imaginable (all forgiven)
- Repeated sins (all forgiven each time)

Psalms 103:10-12 (KJV):

“He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.”

You're completely forgiven. No exceptions.

Offer #2: A New Identity

You're no longer defined by past.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV):

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

You become:

- Child of God
- Righteous in God's eyes
- Loved unconditionally
- Accepted completely
- Free from shame
- Redeemed and restored

1 John 3:1 (KJV):

“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”

Your past doesn't define you anymore. Jesus does.

Offer #3: The Holy Spirit Inside You

God's Spirit lives in you, helping you.

Ephesians 1:13-14 (KJV):

“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

The Holy Spirit:

- Guides you daily
- Comforts you
- Empowers you
- Teaches you
- Convicts you of sin
- Transforms you gradually

John 14:26 (KJV):

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

You're never alone again.

Offer #4: Relationship With God

You can know God personally.

John 17:3 (KJV):

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

Relationship with God includes:

- Talking to Him (prayer)
- Hearing from Him (Scripture)
- Experiencing His presence
- Knowing His love
- Growing closer daily
- Intimate connection

Psalms 27:8 (KJV):

“When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.”

This isn't distant religious idea. It's personal friendship.

Offer #5: Purpose and Direction

Your life gets purpose.

Ephesians 2:10 (KJV):

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

You discover:

- Why you exist
- What you're created for
- How to use your gifts
- Purpose that matters
- Direction that makes sense
- Impact that lasts

Proverbs 19:21 (KJV):

“There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand.”

Offer #6: Peace

Real, deep, unexplainable peace.

Philippians 4:6-7 (KJV):

“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

This peace includes:

- Freedom from guilt
- Security despite circumstances
- Calm in chaos
- Hope in hopelessness
- Joy underneath struggle
- Peace that makes no sense

John 14:27 (KJV):

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

Offer #7: Eternal Life

Forever with God.

John 3:16 (KJV):

“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.”

Eternal life means:

- Never-ending existence
- In God’s presence
- In perfect peace
- Without suffering
- Without death
- Forever

Revelation 21:4 (KJV):

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

Offer #8: A Faith Family

Community of believers.

Ephesians 3:14-15 (KJV):

“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.”

You gain:

- Church family
- Spiritual brothers and sisters
- Support system
- Community
- Belonging
- “Your people”

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (KJV):

“Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.”

Chapter 4: What Jesus Asks of You

Requirement #1: Belief

You must believe Jesus is God's Son.

John 3:16 (KJV):

“Whosoever believeth in him...”

This means:

- Believing He's real
- Believing He's God
- Believing He died for you
- Believing He rose again
- Trusting Him completely

Note: Belief isn't just intellectual assent. It's trust. Commitment. Faith.

John 3:36 (KJV):

“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.”

Requirement #2: Confession

You must acknowledge Him as Lord.

Romans 10:9 (KJV):

“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 includes:

- Admitting Jesus is Lord
- Making Him central
- Submitting to Him
- Following Him
- Committing your life

Romans 10:10 (KJV):

“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Requirement #3: Repentance

You must turn from sin.

2 Corinthians 7:10 (KJV):

“For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”

Repentance means:

- Recognizing sin
- Feeling sorry for it
- Turning away from it
- Moving toward righteousness
- Genuine change of direction

Acts 26:20 (KJV):

“But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.”

It's not perfection. It's direction change.

Requirement #4: Commitment

You must commit your life to Jesus.

Luke 9:23 (KJV):

“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

Commitment means:

- Making Jesus central
- Following His way
- Living His values
- Obeying His teachings

- Growing spiritually
- Becoming like Him

Colossians 2:6 (KJV):

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:”

Requirement #5: Surrender

You must let go of control.

Not surrender to defeat. Surrender to victory.

Surrendering means:

- Trusting God, not yourself
- Following His plan, not yours
- Accepting His will
- Letting Him lead
- Depending on Him
- Yielding your life

Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV):

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

What Jesus Doesn't Require

Important to understand what Jesus does NOT require:

Jesus doesn't require:

- Perfection (you'll stumble)
- Perfect understanding (faith involves mystery)
- Perfect feelings (doubt is normal)
- Perfect circumstances (come as you are)
- Cleaning yourself up (He accepts you as-is)
- Having all answers (questions are okay)
- Being good enough (you'll never be)
- Financial success (He meets needs)
- Family permission (follow anyway)
- Social approval (some will reject)

Jesus accepts you. Completely. As you are. Right now.

Romans 5:1-2 (KJV):

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

Chapter 5: Common Misconceptions About Becoming Christian

Misconception #1: “I Have to Be Good First”

The Truth: Jesus accepts you as you are, not after you clean up your life.

Romans 5:8 (KJV):

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

Jesus died for you while you were still sinning, not after you stopped.

Come to Jesus as you are. He’ll change you after you come, not before.

Ephesians 2:4-5 (KJV):

“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)”

Misconception #2: “I Can’t Follow Jesus If I Have Doubts”

The Truth: Doubt is normal part of faith journey.

Mark 9:24 (KJV):

“And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.”

This father doubted. Jesus still helped him.

Doubt and faith can coexist. Faith is trusting despite doubt, not absence of doubt.

James 1:6-7 (KJV):

“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.”

But this speaks to unwavering faith after decision, not doubt before commitment.

Misconception #3: “I’ve Done Too Much to Be Forgiven”

The Truth: There is no sin beyond God’s forgiveness.

1 John 1:9 (KJV):

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

All unrighteousness. No exceptions. No limits. No caveats.

No sin is too big for God’s grace.

Psalms 103:8-12 (KJV):

“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.”

Misconception #4: “I Have to Give Up Everything”

The Truth: You gain far more than you lose.

Matthew 19:29 (KJV):

“And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name’s sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.”

You might lose temporal things. You gain eternal everything.

The exchange rate is incredible. You lose temporary; you gain permanent.

Proverbs 8:11 (KJV):

“For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.”

Misconception #5: “Christianity Is Just for Weak People”

The Truth: Strongest people become Christian.

1 Corinthians 1:25 (KJV):

“Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”

Admitting need requires strength, not weakness.

Many intelligent people, accomplished people, strong people become Christian. It takes courage.

1 Corinthians 1:27-28 (KJV):

“But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are.”

Misconception #6: “I Have to Understand Everything First”

The Truth: Faith involves mystery. You don’t need all answers to begin.

1 Corinthians 13:12 (KJV):

“For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.”

You’ll never have perfect understanding this side of heaven. Faith means trusting despite incomplete understanding.

Hebrews 11:1 (KJV):

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Misconception #7: “My Family Will Disown Me”

The Truth: Many families come around. And even if not, God provides family.

Matthew 10:37 (KJV):

“He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”

This isn't cruel. It's clarity: Following Jesus might cost family. But it's worth it.

God becomes your family. Spiritual family becomes your community. You're never truly alone.

Mark 10:29-30 (KJV):

“And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's; But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.”

Misconception #8: “I Have to Be Baptized/Join Church First”

The Truth: Becoming Christian comes first. Everything else follows.

Becoming Christian happens in:

- Your heart (belief)
- Your confession (commitment)
- Your decision (surrender)

Baptism and church follow as response. Don't wait for perfect circumstances. Decide to follow Jesus now.

Romans 10:9-10 (KJV):

“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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

PART 2 — ASSESSING YOUR READINESS

Chapter 6: The Five Dimensions of Readiness

The Five Dimensions Explained

Before making decision, assess readiness in five areas:

- **Spiritual Readiness** — Do you genuinely believe?
- **Intellectual Readiness** — Do you understand enough?
- **Emotional Readiness** — Are you prepared emotionally?
- **Volitional Readiness** — Are you willing to commit?
- **Relational Readiness** — Can you handle consequences?

You don't need perfect readiness in all areas. But you should assess each.

Why These Five Dimensions Matter

Spiritual Readiness deals with your heart and belief. This is primary.

Intellectual Readiness deals with your understanding. You need enough comprehension to make informed decision.

Emotional Readiness deals with your feelings. You need emotional stability to commit.

Volitional Readiness deals with your will. You need genuine desire to follow Jesus.

Relational Readiness deals with relationships and consequences. You need to understand what you're committing to.

Assessing Honestly

As you move through each dimension:

- Be honest with yourself
- Don't minimize barriers
- Don't inflate readiness
- Ask hard questions
- Seek wise counsel
- Pray about it

Chapter 7: Spiritual Readiness Assessment

Question 1: Do You Believe Jesus Is God's Son?

This is essential.

Yes / Somewhat / Not sure / No

If **“Yes”**: You have spiritual readiness. Move forward.

If **“Somewhat or Not Sure”**: You have some readiness. Read more about Jesus. Ask questions. Investigate. You'll gain clarity.

If **“No”**: You're not spiritually ready yet. That's okay. Keep investigating.

John 6:69 (KJV):

“And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Question 2: Do You Believe Jesus Died for Your Sins?

This is central to Gospel.

Yes / Somewhat / Not sure / No

If **“Yes”**: Readiness increased.

If **“Somewhat, Not Sure, or No”**: You need clearer understanding. Read about crucifixion and redemption.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (KJV):

“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:”

Question 3: Do You Believe Jesus Rose From Death?

This is what makes faith possible.

1 Corinthians 15:57 (KJV):

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Yes / Somewhat / Not sure / No

If **“Yes”**: Major readiness indicator.

If **“No”**: Research resurrection evidence. Read about post-resurrection appearances.

1 Peter 1:3 (KJV):

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”

Question 4: Are You Willing to Repent (Turn From Sin)?

This is commitment.

Repentance doesn't mean perfection. It means direction change.

Yes / Somewhat / Not sure / No

If **“Yes”**: You're spiritually ready.

If **“Somewhat or Not Sure”**: You're ready enough. Commit. God helps with change after.

If **“No”**: You need more time. Repentance is essential.

Luke 13:3 (KJV):

“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

Question 5: Are You Willing to Make Jesus Lord of Your Life?

This is surrender.

Yes / Somewhat / Not sure / No

If **“Yes”**: You’re spiritually ready.

If **“Somewhat or Not Sure”**: Close enough. Surrender becomes deeper over time.

If **“No”**: Wait. Lordship is essential.

Romans 14:8 (KJV):

“For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord’s.”

What Spiritual Readiness Means

You’re spiritually ready when:

- You believe Jesus is God’s Son
- You accept His death for your sins
- You believe He rose
- You’re willing to repent
- You’ll make Him Lord

You don’t need:

- Perfect understanding
- Complete assurance
- Absence of doubt
- Perfect circumstances
- Family permission

Chapter 8: Intellectual Readiness

Question 1: Do You Understand the Gospel?

You should have basic understanding:

- God loves you
- You’re sinful
- Jesus died for you
- Jesus rose again

- Believing in Jesus saves you

Do you understand these basics?

Yes / Mostly / Sort of / No

If **“Yes or Mostly”**: You’re intellectually ready.

If **“Sort of or No”**: Read Chapter 2 again. Discuss with mature Christian. You’ll understand.

2 Timothy 2:2 (KJV):

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

Question 2: Do You Understand That Belief Is Not Just Mental Assent?

Belief involves trust, commitment, faith.

It’s not just “yes, I agree.” It’s “I’m trusting Jesus with my life.”

Do you understand this distinction?

Yes / Mostly / Sort of / No

If **“Yes or Mostly”**: Good understanding.

If **“Sort of or No”**: Don’t worry. You’ll learn. Commitment will clarify it.

James 2:26 (KJV):

“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

Question 3: Do You Understand What Following Jesus Involves?

Following Jesus means:

- Living according to His values
- Obeying His teachings
- Growing spiritually
- Being part of church
- Sharing your faith
- Putting Him first

Do you understand these commitments?

Yes / Mostly / Sort of / No

If **“Yes or Mostly”**: You’re ready.

If **“Sort of or No”**: Ask questions. Talk to believers. Understanding grows through involvement.

Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV):

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I

am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

Question 4: Do You Understand That Questions and Growth Are Okay?

Critical understanding:

- You don't need all answers
- Faith involves mystery
- Questions are encouraged
- Understanding develops over time
- Growth is lifelong

Do you understand this?

Yes / Mostly / Sort of / No

If “**Yes or Mostly**”: Perfect intellectual readiness.

If “**Sort of or No**”: That's okay. You'll learn this through experience.

Proverbs 1:5 (KJV):

“A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:”

What Intellectual Readiness Means

You're intellectually ready when:

- You understand basic Gospel
- You understand belief requires commitment
- You understand what following Jesus involves
- You understand faith involves mystery

You don't need:

- Theological education
- Ability to defend faith
- Complete theological understanding
- All questions answered

Chapter 9: Emotional Readiness

Question 1: Are You Emotionally Prepared for Change?

Following Jesus changes your life.

Relationships change. Priorities shift. Habits alter. Values transform.

Are you emotionally ready for this?

Yes / Somewhat / Uncertain / No

If **“Yes”**: You have emotional readiness.

If **“Somewhat or Uncertain”**: You're close enough. Emotional readiness develops as you go.

If **“No”**: Work on acceptance before committing.

Philippians 3:12-14 (KJV):

“Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

Question 2: Can You Handle Potential Rejection?

Some people may reject you for your faith.

Family. Friends. Colleagues. Some relationships may end.

Can you emotionally handle this?

Yes / Probably / Not sure / No

If **“Yes or Probably”**: You're emotionally ready.

If **“Not sure or No”**: This is worth working through. Jesus promises reward even in loss.

Matthew 5:11-12 (KJV):

“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”

Question 3: Are You Emotionally Secure About Your Decision?

You need inner stability.

You'll have doubts. You'll face challenges. You need emotional foundation.

Do you feel emotionally secure?

Yes / Mostly / Somewhat / No

If **“Yes or Mostly”**: You're ready.

If **“Somewhat or No”**: Work on emotional stability. Prayer and counseling help.

Philippians 4:4-7 (KJV):

“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Question 4: Can You Forgive Yourself?

Many people struggle with guilt.

About past sins. About failures. About unworthiness.

Can you accept God's forgiveness and forgive yourself?

Yes / Getting there / Struggling / No

If **"Yes or Getting there"**: You're emotionally ready.

If **"Struggling or No"**: This is critical. Work on self-forgiveness. This affects your relationship with God.

Romans 8:1 (KJV):

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

What Emotional Readiness Means

You're emotionally ready when:

- You can handle life change
- You can face potential rejection
- You feel emotionally secure
- You can accept God's forgiveness

You don't need:

- Perfect emotional health
- Absence of fear
- Complete confidence
- No doubts

Chapter 10: Volitional (Will) Readiness

Question 1: Do You Genuinely Want to Follow Jesus?

This is fundamental.

Not what you think you should want. Not what others want. What do YOU want?

Do you genuinely desire to follow Jesus?

Yes, wholeheartedly / Yes, but hesitant / Sort of / No

If **"Yes, wholeheartedly"**: You have full volitional readiness.

If **"Yes, but hesitant"**: That's okay. Hesitation is normal. Move forward.

If **"Sort of or No"**: Wait. Genuine desire is essential.

Matthew 22:37 (KJV):

“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”

Question 2: Are You Willing to Change Your Lifestyle?

Jesus changes how you live.

Your habits. Your relationships. Your activities. Your priorities.

Are you willing to let Jesus change you?

Yes / Mostly / Somewhat / Not really

If **“Yes or Mostly”**: You’re volitionally ready.

If **“Somewhat or Not really”**: You need clarity. Change is ongoing process, but initial willingness is required.

Romans 12:2 (KJV):

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

Question 3: Are You Committed to Ongoing Growth?

Following Jesus is lifelong journey.

Not one-time event. Continuous process of becoming like Jesus.

Are you willing to commit to lifelong growth?

Yes, completely / Yes, mostly / Uncertain / No

If **“Yes”**: You have volitional readiness.

If **“Uncertain or No”**: That’s okay at first. Commitment deepens over time.

Philippians 3:13-14 (KJV):

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

Question 4: Are You Ready to Put Jesus First?

Jesus must become central.

More important than:

- Career
- Relationships
- Hobbies
- Money
- Reputation
- Comfort

Are you willing to put Jesus first?

Yes, definitely / Yes, trying / Not sure / No

If **“Yes”**: Full volitional readiness.

If **“Trying or Not sure”**: Close enough. Surrender deepens over time.

If **“No”**: This is crucial. Lordship requires placing Jesus first.

Matthew 6:33 (KJV):

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

What Volitional Readiness Means

You’re volitionally ready when:

- You genuinely desire to follow Jesus
- You’re willing to change your lifestyle
- You’re committed to ongoing growth
- You’ll put Jesus first

You don’t need:

- Perfect commitment
- Complete certainty
- Flawless resolve
- Perfect timing

Chapter 11: Relational Readiness

Question 1: Are You Prepared for Changes in Relationships?

Following Jesus affects your relationships.

Some friendships will strengthen. Others will fade. New connections will form.

Are you prepared for relationship changes?

Yes / Mostly / Somewhat / Not really

If **“Yes or Mostly”**: You’re relationally ready.

If **“Somewhat or Not really”**: Think through this. Prepare yourself emotionally.

Amos 3:3 (KJV):

“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”

Question 2: Are You Ready to Join Church Community?

Following Jesus means joining His church.

You'll worship together. Study Scripture. Support each other. Live in community.

Are you ready for church community?

Yes, excited / Yes, willing / Uncertain / No

If **“Yes”**: Good relational readiness.

If **“Uncertain or No”**: This is important. Discuss concerns with experienced Christians.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (KJV):

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Question 3: Can You Be Open About Your Faith?

Following Jesus means witnessing.

Not aggressively. But authentically sharing your faith when opportunity arises.

Are you willing to be open about your faith?

Yes / Mostly / Somewhat / No

If **“Yes or Mostly”**: You're relationally ready.

If **“Somewhat or No”**: This develops over time. Initial willingness is enough.

2 Timothy 1:8 (KJV):

“Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;”

Question 4: Are You Prepared for Family/Friend Objections?

Not everyone will support your decision.

Some will object. Some will discourage. Some may pressure.

Are you prepared to stand firm?

Yes, firmly / Yes, probably / Uncertain / No

If **“Yes”**: You're relationally ready.

If **“Uncertain or No”**: Prepare yourself. Find Christian community for support.

Joshua 1:9 (KJV):

“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage: be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”

What Relational Readiness Means

You're relationally ready when:

- You're prepared for relationship changes
- You're ready to join church community
- You're open about your faith
- You can handle objections

You don't need:

- Everyone's approval
- Perfect friendships
- Community maturity
- Family support

Chapter 12: What If You're Not Ready Yet?

It's Okay to Not Be Ready

If you're not spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, volitionally, or relationally ready, that's okay.

Don't force a decision you're not ready for. Keep investigating. Keep asking questions. Keep seeking.

What to Do If You're Not Ready

If You're Not Spiritually Ready. Investigate Jesus further.

Read the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John). Talk to believers. Ask hard questions. Pray. Give yourself time.

Psalm 27:8 (KJV):

"When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek."

If You're Not Intellectually Ready. Study more.

Read books about Christianity. Listen to sermons. Take classes. Understand before committing.

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV):

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

If You're Not Emotionally Ready. Seek counseling.

Talk to trusted friends. Meet with pastor. Work through your emotions. Emotional health matters.

Proverbs 11:14 (KJV):

"Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellours there is safety."

If You're Not Volitionally Ready. Be honest with yourself.

Why are you hesitant? What are you unwilling to surrender? What would help you become willing?

Jeremiah 29:13 (KJV):

“And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”

If You're Not Relationally Ready. Prepare for consequences.

Think through what you might lose. Strengthen your support system. Build community before decision.

Proverbs 27:12 (KJV):

“A prudent man foreseeeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.”

Signals You're Ready to Decide

You might be ready when:

- You believe Jesus is God's Son
- You understand the Gospel
- You're emotionally prepared
- You genuinely want to follow
- You accept relational consequences
- You feel God calling you
- You're at peace with decision

You don't need:

- 100% certainty
- All questions answered
- Perfect circumstances
- Everyone's approval
- Complete confidence

Don't Rush

If you're pressured to decide before ready, it's okay to say:

“I'm not ready yet. I need more time. I want to make this decision when I'm fully ready, not pressured.”

God respects honest hesitation more than false commitment.

Luke 14:28-30 (KJV):

“For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.”

PART 3 — REMOVING BARRIERS

Chapter 13: “What About My Past?”

Your Past Doesn't Disqualify You

Whatever you've done, Jesus forgives it.

Murder. Addiction. Abuse. Sexual sin. Betrayal. Abandonment. Theft. Deception.

Jesus forgives all of it.

1 John 1:7 (KJV):

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanseth us from all sin.”

Examples of People Jesus Forgave

The woman at the well (John 4) — multiple marriages, current adultery. Jesus loved her.

Zacchaeus (Luke 19) — thief, corrupt, hated. Jesus befriended him.

Peter (Matthew 26) — denied Jesus. Jesus restored him completely.

Paul (Acts) — murderer of Christians. Jesus transformed him into apostle.

The thief on cross (Luke 23) — thief, criminal. Saved by Jesus his final moments.

How Jesus Handles Your Past

He doesn't:

- Hold it against you
- Remind you constantly
- Judge you for it
- Keep score
- Compare you to others
- Use it to manipulate

He does:

- Forgive completely
- Remove guilt
- Wipe it clean
- Remember it no more
- Restore you
- Transform you

Isaiah 1:18 (KJV):

“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

Your Past Is Not Your Identity

Your past is what you've done. It's not who you are.

When you become Christian, your identity changes.

You're no longer:

- Your failures
- Your mistakes
- Your sin
- Your shame
- Your pain

You become:

- Beloved child of God
- Forgiven person
- New creation
- Righteous in God's eyes
- Redeemed and restored

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV):

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

What About Consequences?

Forgiveness doesn't mean no consequences.

If you stole, returning the money would be right. If you hurt someone, asking forgiveness would be good. If you're dealing with addiction, seeking help is wise.

But consequences don't separate you from God's love.

God forgives. He might still have you work through consequences. But He'll be with you through it.

Proverbs 6:30-31 (KJV):

“Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.”

Moving Forward From Your Past

Accept God's forgiveness.

Stop punishing yourself. Stop believing lies about yourself. Accept what God says: you're forgiven.

Philippians 3:13-14 (KJV):

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

Chapter 14: “What If I Have Questions?”

Questions Are Welcome

Jesus doesn't fear your questions.

He encourages investigation. He welcomes honest inquiry. He's not threatened by doubt.

Ask away. Jesus can handle it.

Luke 1:29 (KJV):

“And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.”

Common Questions People Ask

“How can three equal one?” (Trinity)

The Trinity (God as Father, Son, Holy Spirit) is mystery. You don't need to fully understand it to believe.

1 John 5:7 (KJV):

“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”

“Why do bad things happen?” (Suffering)

This is deep question. Sometimes God permits suffering for our good. Sometimes it's result of living in fallen world. Sometimes we don't know why.

Romans 8:28 (KJV):

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

“How is evolution compatible with creation?”

Different Christians answer differently. Some believe God directed evolution. Some believe in literal creation. Both can be Christians.

The point: you're not required to have all scientific beliefs figured out to follow Jesus.

“What about people who've never heard of Jesus?”

God judges justly. He'll handle everyone fairly according to what they had opportunity to know.

Romans 1:18-20 (KJV):

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them;

for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”

Resources for Questions

Find answers through:

- Bible study
- Christian books
- Conversations with mature believers
- Sermons
- Bible commentary
- Ask God directly (prayer)

1 Peter 3:15 (KJV):

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear;”

Don't Let Questions Stop You

You don't need all answers to commit.

Commit to Jesus. Then work through questions.

John 7:17 (KJV):

“If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”

Understanding often comes after commitment, not before.

Chapter 15: “What If I'm Not Sure?”

Uncertainty Is Normal

Following Jesus involves stepping into something you don't fully understand.

Uncertainty doesn't mean you shouldn't decide. It means you're being realistic.

Types of Uncertainty

Intellectual uncertainty: “I don't understand everything.” That's okay. No Christian does. Commit anyway. Understanding grows.

Emotional uncertainty: “I'm not sure how I feel.” That's okay. Your feelings will stabilize. Commit anyway. Emotions will catch up.

Spiritual uncertainty: “I'm not sure I believe.” This needs addressing. If you're not spiritually certain, wait. Keep investigating. Come back when you're more sure.

Relational uncertainty: “I’m not sure about consequences.” That’s okay. You can handle them. Commit anyway. Support will appear.

Volitional uncertainty: “I’m not sure I want to.” This needs honesty. If you genuinely don’t want to, don’t commit yet. Keep seeking. Your desires might change.

The Decision Point

At some point, uncertainty meets commitment.

You decide despite uncertainty. That’s faith.

Hebrews 11:1 (KJV):

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

How to Move Through Uncertainty

Name your uncertainty. What exactly are you unsure about?

Investigate it. What would help clarify it?

Pray about it. Ask God to guide you.

Seek wise counsel. Talk to mature believers.

Set a timeline. Give yourself deadline. Don’t float indefinitely.

Make a decision. Commit despite lingering uncertainty.

John 3:36 (KJV):

“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.”

Chapter 16: “What If People Mock Me?”

People Will Mock

Some will make fun of your faith.

Friends. Family. Colleagues. Acquaintances. Some people mock Christianity.

This is normal. Jesus experienced it. His followers do too.

Matthew 27:27-31 (KJV):

“Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.”

How to Handle Mockery

Don’t become defensive. Stay calm. Don’t attack back.

Don't apologize for faith. You have right to believe.

Don't convince mockers. You can't. God works faith, not you.

Stay loving. Respond with kindness even when mocked.

Find your community. Surround yourself with believers who support you.

Remember your purpose. You're living for Jesus, not for others' approval.

1 Peter 3:15-16 (KJV):

"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ."

Jesus' Promise

Jesus promised opposition. He also promised victory.

Matthew 5:11-12 (KJV):

"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

Chapter 17: "What If My Family Objects?"

Family Objections Are Real

Some families object strongly to Christian faith.

Religious family. Atheist family. Family with different beliefs. Family that values independence.

Family opposition is real barrier. Address it honestly.

Types of Family Objections

Spiritual objections: "Christianity is false." They believe your faith is wrong. This creates spiritual disagreement.

Cultural objections: "This isn't our tradition." Your faith differs from family heritage. They see it as rejection of family.

Social objections: "What will people think?" Your faith affects family reputation. They fear judgment.

Control objections: "You'll leave us." They fear losing you. They fear your faith will separate you.

What Jesus Said About Family Opposition

Matthew 10:34-37 (KJV):

"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. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than

me is not worthy of me.”

Jesus knew family would object. He’s honest about cost. But He also says it’s worth it.

How to Handle Family Opposition

Love your family. Don’t become harsh or unkind.

Respect your family. Honor their concerns even while disagreeing.

Don’t force faith on them. Live your faith. Don’t argue constantly.

Set boundaries. You don’t have to let them control your faith.

Find Christian family. Your church becomes your spiritual family.

Pray for them. Ask God to open their hearts.

Live your faith well. Let your changed life speak.

1 Peter 3:1-2 (KJV):

“Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the behaviour of the wives; While they behold your chaste behaviour coupled with fear.”

When Family Disowns You

If family disowns you, God provides.

Matthew 19:29 (KJV):

“And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name’s sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.”

You lose temporal family. You gain eternal family—God as Father, Church as family, Heaven as home.

Chapter 18: “What If I Fail?”

You Will Fail

After becoming Christian, you’ll mess up.

You’ll stumble. You’ll sin. You’ll disappoint yourself. You’ll fail.

This is normal. All believers fail.

1 John 1:8 (KJV):

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

Failure Doesn’t Mean You’re Not Christian

Your salvation doesn’t depend on perfection.

Romans 8:1 (KJV):

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”

When you fail:

- You're still Christian
- You're still loved
- You're still forgiven
- You're still God's child
- Failure doesn't separate you from God

Once you're in God's family, nothing removes you.

Hebrews 10:10 (KJV):

“By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

What To Do When You Fail

Recognize the sin. Don't minimize or rationalize.

Confess it. Tell God what you did. Be honest.

Repent. Turn away from it. Don't do it again.

Make amends. If you hurt someone, apologize and restore.

Move forward. Don't wallow in guilt. Accept forgiveness and move on.

1 John 1:9 (KJV):

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

Failure Produces Growth

Your failures aren't failures. They're training.

God uses your stumbles to teach you, humble you, and deepen your faith.

Romans 5:3-4 (KJV):

“And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope:”

You're Not Alone In Failure

Every great Christian failed:

Peter denied Jesus. Paul struggled with sin. David committed murder. Solomon backslid.

Yet God used all of them powerfully.

Your failure doesn't disqualify you. It qualifies you for God's grace.

Chapter 19: “What About Other Religions?”

Jesus Made Exclusive Claims

Jesus didn't say He was one way among many.

He said He was **the** way.

John 14:6 (KJV):

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

This isn't arrogant. It's His claim. He made it. Christians believe it.

What About Good People in Other Religions?

There are good, sincere people in other religions.

Jesus doesn't judge based on religion. He judges based on response to Him.

John 3:18 (KJV):

“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

Different Religions, Different Claims

Christianity claims:

- Jesus is God's Son
- Jesus is the way to salvation
- Jesus rose from dead
- Faith in Jesus saves

Islam claims:

- Jesus was a prophet, not God's Son
- Muhammad is final prophet
- Salvation through works and belief

Buddhism claims:

- Buddha showed path to enlightenment
- No God
- Salvation through right living

These can't all be true. They contradict each other fundamentally.

Why Christianity Is True

Christians believe Christianity is true because:

- Historical evidence for Jesus' resurrection

- Fulfilled prophecies
- Changed lives
- Internal coherence
- Jesus' claims backed by actions

But you should investigate this yourself.

Should You Study Other Religions?

Yes, absolutely.

The more you understand other religions, the more clearly you'll see Christianity's distinctiveness.

Read their texts. Talk to believers. Understand claims.

Then decide.

1 John 4:1 (KJV):

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

Respect Without Agreement

You can respect people of other faiths while disagreeing with them.

Be kind. Be respectful. Don't be arrogant. But also don't pretend all religions are equivalent.

They're not. One claims to be the truth. That's Christianity.

PART 4 — THE COMMITMENT PROCESS

Chapter 20: Understanding Conversion

What Is Conversion?

Conversion is decision to follow Jesus.

It's moment when you turn from living without Jesus to living with Him.

It's:

- Change of direction
- Change of allegiance
- Beginning of new life
- Spiritual rebirth
- Entrance into God's family

It's NOT:

- Joining a religion
- Following a code
- Being morally improved
- Becoming perfect
- Completing a process

When Does Conversion Happen?

Conversion happens when you:

- Believe Jesus is God's Son
- Repent of sin
- Confess Jesus as Lord
- Surrender to Him
- Commit your life to Him

This can happen in:

- A moment (instantaneous)
- A process (gradual realization)
- Prayer (talking to God)
- Conversation (discussing faith)
- Alone (private decision)
- Community (public decision)

However it happens is fine. The point is it happens.

The Bible's View of Conversion

Acts 3:19 (KJV):

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;”

Conversion involves:

- Repentance (turning from sin)
- Conversion (turning to Jesus)
- Forgiveness (sins blotted out)
- Refreshing (new life)

Conversion Is Decisive

Conversion isn't tentative. It's decisive.

You're either following Jesus or you're not. You either trust Him or you don't.

But note: Your following begins, but it doesn't complete. You'll grow deeper in faith for rest of your life.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV):

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

Chapter 21: The Role of Repentance

What Is Repentance?

Repentance is changing direction.

Not just feeling bad about sin. Turning away from it.

It's:

- Recognition (seeing sin)
- Remorse (feeling sorrow)
- Rejection (leaving it behind)
- Reorientation (turning toward righteousness)

Repentance Is Not

Repentance is NOT:

- Emotional outburst
- Temporary regret
- Guilt or shame

- Self-punishment
- Penance

Many people feel sorry for sin but don't repent. Repentance involves action—turning away.

Examples of Repentance

Zacchaeus (Luke 19:8-9):

“And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.”

He didn't just feel bad. He stopped stealing and made restitution.

The woman at the well (John 4)

She had multiple marriages and current adultery. Meeting Jesus, she turned from that lifestyle.

Repentance Is an Attitude

Repentance begins with attitude.

Desire to turn from sin. Willingness to change. Determination to follow Jesus instead.

This attitude produces action.

Romans 2:4 (KJV):

“Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?”

Repentance Produces Change

Repentance results in behavioral change.

Not immediate perfection. But gradual transformation.

The Holy Spirit works in you to produce change.

Galatians 5:22-23 (KJV):

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

You Need Repentance

To become Christian, you must repent.

You must turn from sin. You must change direction.

But note: You don't need perfect repentance. You need genuine repentance.

Acts 2:38 (KJV):

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Chapter 22: The Role of Faith

What Is Faith?

Faith is trusting Jesus with your life.

It's more than belief. It's commitment. It's surrender. It's trust.

Faith is:

- Trusting Jesus
- Depending on Him
- Committing to Him
- Believing His promises
- Following His way

Faith Is Not

Faith is NOT:

- Blind belief
- Ignoring evidence
- Wishful thinking
- Emotional experience
- Works or performance

Faith Requires Evidence

Christian faith isn't blind.

It's based on evidence:

- Resurrection
- Changed lives
- Fulfilled prophecies
- Testimony of Scripture
- Personal experience

You can believe reasonably.

1 John 1:1-3 (KJV):

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

Faith Involves Trust Despite Mystery

Faith trusts even though you don't understand everything.

You can't see God. But you trust He's there. You can't understand Trinity. But you trust the concept. You can't explain everything. But you trust Jesus anyway.

Hebrews 11:1 (KJV):

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Faith Produces Obedience

Faith isn't just intellectual. It's practical.

Faith in Jesus produces changed living. It produces obedience. It produces transformation.

James 2:26 (KJV):

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

You Need Faith

To become Christian, you need faith in Jesus.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (KJV):

"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."

Chapter 23: The Role of Confession

What Is Confession?

Confession is acknowledging Jesus as Lord aloud.

Not just believing privately. Stating publicly that Jesus is your Lord.

Confession is:

- Saying it
- Speaking it
- Declaring it
- Making it public
- Committing openly

Confession Is Important

Romans 10:9-10 (KJV):

"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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Confession is required for salvation.

Not just private belief. Public declaration.

How to Make Confession

You confess by:

- Telling God (prayer)
- Telling another Christian (accountability)
- Telling your church
- Living openly as believer
- Witnessing to others

Each form is valid. The key is speaking it aloud to someone.

Benefits of Confession

Confession:

- Makes commitment real
- Creates accountability
- Witnesses to others
- Solidifies your decision
- Joins you to community
- Makes you public believer

Matthew 10:32-33 (KJV):

“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.”

You Don’t Need Perfect Words

You don’t need eloquent confession.

Simple, honest declaration:

- “I believe Jesus is God’s Son and I’m following Him.”
- “I’m trusting Jesus with my life.”
- “I commit my life to Jesus.”

The words matter less than meaning.

Chapter 24: The Moment of Commitment

Prepare Yourself

Before the moment:

- Pray

- Think through decision
- Ask questions
- Get clarity
- Find someone to pray with
- Set specific time

The Decision

At the moment of commitment:

- Believe Jesus is God's Son
- Repent of sin
- Confess Him as Lord
- Surrender your life
- Commit to follow

This can happen:

- Silently
- Aloud
- Alone
- With others
- At church
- At home
- Anywhere

A Sample Prayer

You might pray something like:

“God, I believe Jesus is Your Son. I believe He died for my sins and rose again. I’m sorry for my sin. I turn from it. I confess Jesus as my Lord. I commit my life to Him. Jesus, I’m trusting You. Take my life. Make me Yours. I follow You from this moment on. Amen.”

Or your own words. God hears your heart, not perfect words.

What Happens

At the moment of commitment:

- Your sins are forgiven
- You become God's child
- Holy Spirit enters your life
- You're born again spiritually
- You enter God's family
- Your eternity is secure

This happens instantly.

It's real. It's permanent. It's yours.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV):

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

Tell Someone

After commitment, tell someone.

Tell a pastor. Tell a mature Christian. Tell your church. Tell a trusted friend.

This:

- Makes it real
- Creates accountability
- Joins you to community
- Strengthens your commitment
- Witnesses to others

Acts 8:37 (KJV):

“And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

Chapter 25: Making It Official/Public**Why Go Public?**

Making your faith public:

- Strengthens your commitment
- Witnesses to others
- Joins you to church
- Creates accountability
- Fulfills Jesus' pattern
- Follows biblical tradition

How to Go Public

Join a church. Find Bible-believing, Christ-centered church. Tell pastor about decision.

Get baptized. Request baptism. This is public declaration of faith.

Join a small group. Connect with believers for ongoing growth.

Attend regularly. Make church part of your life.

Tell others. Share your faith with family and friends.

Serve. Get involved. Help others.

Baptism Explained

Baptism is public declaration of faith.

Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV):

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”

What baptism means:

- Old life is dead (submersion under water)
- New life is born (rising from water)
- Public witness (seen by others)
- Obedience to Jesus (following His command)
- Identification with Him (united with Him)

Baptism doesn't save you. But it's important step after commitment.

Finding a Church

Look for church that:

- Teaches Bible clearly
- Preaches Gospel
- Emphasizes Jesus
- Welcomes sinners
- Has community
- Encourages growth

Not perfect church. But faithful church.

Your First Step

Find a pastor or mature Christian. Tell them:

“I've decided to follow Jesus. I want to be baptized and join the church. Can you help me?”

They'll guide you from there.

PART 5 — THE DECISION MADE

Chapter 26: What Happens When You Become Christian

You're Born Again

Jesus said:

John 3:3 (KJV):

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

You experience spiritual birth. You become new person.

You Receive New Life

Your spiritual death ends. Your spiritual life begins.

Before: Spiritually dead, separated from God, lost.

After: Spiritually alive, reconnected to God, found.

Ephesians 2:1-10 (KJV):

“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins... But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)...”

You Enter God's Family

You're adopted into God's family.

Romans 8:15 (KJV):

“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”

You have Father (God), brothers and sisters (church), home (Heaven).

Multiple Things Happen Simultaneously

When you become Christian, several things happen at same moment:

- Your sins are forgiven
- You're born again
- Holy Spirit enters you
- You're adopted into family
- You're declared righteous
- You're sealed for eternity

All at same moment. All guaranteed. All permanent.

Chapter 27: Your New Identity

You're No Longer Who You Were

Your old identity is gone.

Old identity:

- Sinner separated from God
- Slave to sin
- Child of darkness
- Dead spiritually
- Lost
- Hopeless

New identity:

- Beloved child of God
- Free from sin
- Child of light
- Alive spiritually
- Found
- Full of hope

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV):

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

Who You Are Now

You're:

- Righteous in God's sight
- Justified (declared not guilty)
- Sanctified (being set apart)
- Redeemed (purchased back)
- Beloved
- Accepted
- Forgiven

1 John 3:1 (KJV):

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."

This Identity Is Permanent

Your new identity doesn't change.

You might stumble. You might sin. But you're still God's child. Still loved. Still righteous in His eyes.

You can't unforgive yourself. Your sins are already forgiven.

Chapter 28: The Holy Spirit Enters

The Holy Spirit Is God's Presence

When you become Christian, God's Spirit comes to live in you.

John 14:16-17 (KJV):

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

What the Holy Spirit Does

The Holy Spirit:

- Lives in you
- Guides you daily
- Comforts you
- Teaches you Scripture
- Empowers you
- Convicts you of sin
- Produces fruit in your life
- Gives you spiritual gifts
- Intercedes for you

1 Corinthians 6:19 (KJV):

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

The Holy Spirit's Work

The Holy Spirit transforms you gradually.

Not overnight. But progressively. Making you more like Jesus.

Galatians 5:22-23 (KJV):

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

You're Never Alone

Before Jesus: You struggled alone.

After Jesus: God's Spirit lives in you. You're never alone. Never abandoned. Never without help.

Hebrews 13:5 (KJV):

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Chapter 29: Your Sins Are Forgiven

Complete Forgiveness

Every sin you've ever committed is forgiven.

Not held against you. Not remembered. Not counted.

Psalms 103:12 (KJV):

"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."

How Forgiveness Works

Your sins were paid for by Jesus' death.

When you become Christian, you receive benefit of that payment.

No sin remains charged to your account.

Romans 8:1 (KJV):

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

The Guilt Is Gone

Guilt is removed.

That heavy weight you carried? Gone. That shame? Released. That condemnation? Over.

Jesus bore it all.

Isaiah 53:5-6 (KJV):

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Ongoing Forgiveness

As you grow Christian, you'll stumble. You'll sin again.

But confess it, and it's forgiven immediately.

1 John 1:9 (KJV):

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

You're Clean

You're completely, permanently clean.

Before God. In God's eyes. Forever.

Chapter 30: You're Born Again

What Born Again Means

You experience spiritual birth.

Like physical birth, spiritual birth is beginning of new life.

John 3:3-7 (KJV):

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

What Changes

You were:

- Dead spiritually
- Separated from God
- Living in darkness
- Lost
- Hopeless
- Enslaved to sin

Now you're:

- Alive spiritually
- Reconciled to God
- Living in light
- Found
- Full of hope
- Free from sin's grip

1 Peter 1:23 (KJV):

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

You're a New Person

Not new version of old person. Entirely new person.

Your past is gone. Your identity is changed. Your future is transformed.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV):

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

You’ll Grow Like a Newborn

Like physical newborn:

- You need nourishment (God’s Word)
- You need guidance (God’s Spirit, mature believers)
- You need love (church community)
- You need protection (God’s watchfulness)
- You’ll grow gradually (over time)

1 Peter 2:2 (KJV):

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”

Chapter 31: Sealed for Eternity

You’re Sealed

God seals you. Permanently marks you as His.

Ephesians 1:13-14 (KJV):

“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

What Sealed Means

Sealed means:

- Marked as God’s
- Protected
- Guarded
- Guaranteed
- Permanent
- Cannot be revoked

Like a wax seal on official document. Once sealed, cannot be opened by anyone else.

Your Eternity Is Secure

Once you’re sealed, your salvation is guaranteed.

You might fail. You might stumble. You might doubt.

But your salvation remains.

John 10:28-29 (KJV):

“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.”

You’re Guaranteed Heaven

When you die, Heaven is guaranteed.

Not because you deserved it. Not because you earned it. But because Jesus purchased it for you.

1 Peter 1:3-5 (KJV):

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Nothing Can Separate You

Nothing can separate you from God’s love.

Romans 8:38-39 (KJV):

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

PART 6 — NEXT STEPS

Chapter 32: Your First 24 Hours

Tell Someone

Within first 24 hours, tell someone about your decision.

Tell a pastor. Tell a mature Christian. Tell a friend. Tell family.

This:

- Makes it real
- Creates accountability
- Witnesses to others
- Joins you to community

Read Your Bible

Start reading God's Word.

Begin with Gospel of John (New Testament). Read slowly. Reflect on words. Underline important verses.

John 1:1-5 (KJV):

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."

Pray

Talk to God regularly.

Morning. Evening. Throughout day. Tell Him:

- Your struggles
- Your joys
- Your questions
- Your thankfulness
- Your needs

Philippians 4:6 (KJV):

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

Find a Church

Locate a Bible-believing, Christ-centered church.

Visit this coming Sunday. Introduce yourself. Tell them about your decision.

Acts 2:46-47 (KJV):

“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

Don't Isolate

Don't try to do this alone.

Connect with believers. Join small group. Find accountability partner. Build community.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (KJV):

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Chapter 33: Your First Week**Continue Reading Scripture**

Read Gospel of John.

Aim for one chapter daily. Spend 15-30 minutes reading and reflecting.

Write down:

- Verses that stand out
- Questions that arise
- Applications to your life

Pray Daily

Establish prayer routine.

Morning prayer. Evening prayer. Prayer before meals. Prayer throughout day.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV):

“Pray without ceasing.”

Attend Church

Go to church this week.

Participate in worship. Listen to sermon. Talk to people. Don't just observe. Engage.

Ask Questions

Write down questions.

About faith. About Scripture. About God. Don't hide them. Ask mature believers.

Proverbs 18:15 (KJV):

“The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.”

Get Baptized

Arrange baptism if possible.

Talk to pastor. Share your decision. Schedule baptism. Make public declaration.

Acts 2:37-38 (KJV):

“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Find Christian Community

Join small group or Bible study.

Connect with other believers. Build friendships. Support each other.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (KJV):

“Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.”

Chapter 34: Your First Month**Establish Disciplines**

Develop spiritual habits:

Daily Bible reading. Regular prayer. Church attendance. Consistent small group.

These habits sustain faith long-term.

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV):

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Share Your Faith

Tell others about your decision.

Not aggressively. Naturally. When opportunities arise.

What you say:

- “I decided to follow Jesus.”
- “It’s best decision I’ve made.”
- “I’d love to tell you about it.”

Luke 12:8 (KJV):

“Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:”

Read Scripture Systematically

Finish Gospel of John.

Then read other Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke). Then Acts. Then Paul's letters.

Reading Scripture systematically builds knowledge of God.

Get Involved in Church

Volunteer. Help. Serve.

Find ministry that fits you. Contribute. Become part of church community.

Ephesians 4:11-13 (KJV):

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”

Find Mentorship

Seek older Christian to mentor you.

Someone who knows Scripture. Someone who's walked with Jesus. Someone who'll answer questions.

Titus 2:3-4 (KJV):

“The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,”

Chapter 35: Building Your Foundation

Understand Core Doctrines

Learn foundational beliefs:

- God's nature
- Jesus' deity and work
- Holy Spirit's role
- Salvation through faith
- Authority of Scripture
- Second coming of Jesus
- Eternity

2 Timothy 2:2 (KJV):

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”

Read Christian Books

After reading Scripture, read Christian books.

Books on faith. Books on discipleship. Books on theology. Books on Christian living.

This accelerates spiritual growth.

Develop Prayer Life

Move beyond survival prayers.

Develop depth. Pray about everything. Bring Jesus your real concerns. Listen to His response.

Philippians 4:4-7 (KJV):

“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Memorize Scripture

Begin memorizing Bible verses.

Start with short verses. Build to longer passages. This anchors truth in your mind.

Deuteronomy 6:6 (KJV):

“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:”

Confess Jesus in Difficult Moments

When tempted or doubting, confess:

“Jesus is my Lord. I trust Him. I follow Him. I’m His.”

Confession strengthens faith.

Chapter 36: Finding Church Community

What to Look For in Church

Seek church that:

- Preaches Gospel clearly
- Emphasizes Jesus
- Uses Bible as authority
- Welcomes sinners
- Has community
- Encourages growth
- Practices spiritual disciplines
- Focuses on mission

What to Avoid

Avoid churches that:

- Emphasize prosperity
- Minimize sin
- Neglect Bible teaching
- Focus on personality
- Create dependency
- Practice manipulation
- Ignore accountability

Join a Small Group

Find small group (Bible study, prayer group, community group).

This is where real community happens. Where you're known. Supported. Disciplined.

Acts 2:46-47 (KJV):

"And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

Commit to Community

Don't just attend. Participate.

Share your life. Be vulnerable. Support others. Be supported. This is church.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (KJV):

"Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do."

Serve Others

Find way to serve in church.

Greet visitors. Help with kids. Participate in outreach. Contribute your gifts.

1 Peter 4:10-11 (KJV):

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ: to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

Chapter 37: Beginning to Grow

Growth Is Gradual

Spiritual growth isn't overnight.

It's gradual process. Months. Years. Lifetime.

But it's real. You'll change. You'll grow. You'll become more like Jesus.

2 Peter 3:18 (KJV):

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."

Areas of Growth

You'll grow in:

Knowledge. Understanding Scripture. Knowing God better. Growing theologically.

Character. Becoming patient. Developing kindness. Growing in integrity. Increasingly reflecting Jesus.

Service. Finding your gifts. Using them. Serving others. Making impact.

Faith. Trusting God more. Surrendering control. Believing despite circumstances.

Relationships. Loving better. Forgiving more. Community deepening. Influence expanding.

Don't Rush Growth

God grows you at His pace, not yours.

Trust the process. Be patient. He knows what He's doing.

Philippians 1:6 (KJV):

"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:"

Expect Struggle

Growth involves struggle.

You'll face temptation. You'll fail. You'll doubt. You'll struggle.

But God is with you. He strengthens you. He never abandons you.

Romans 8:28 (KJV):

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Celebrate Progress

Notice how you're changing.

You have peace you didn't have. You have hope you didn't have. You have community you didn't have. You have Jesus.

Celebrate it. Thank God for it. Encourage others.

Philippians 4:4 (KJV):

"Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice."

PART 7 — PRAYERS FOR COMMITMENT

Chapter 38: Seven Salvation Prayers

Prayer 1: The Simple Prayer

“God, I believe Jesus is Your Son. I believe He died for my sins. I’m sorry for my sin. I turn from it. I confess Jesus as my Lord. I commit my life to Him. Take my life. Make me Yours. I follow You. Amen.”

Prayer 2: The Honest Prayer

“God, I don’t have everything figured out. I have questions. I have doubts. But I believe Jesus is Your Son. I believe He rose from death. I believe He’s my only hope. I’m putting my faith in Him. I’m making Him my Lord. Help me follow. Help me grow. Help me become who You want me to be. Amen.”

Prayer 3: The Grateful Prayer

“Jesus, thank You for dying for me. Thank You for paying my debt. Thank You for forgiving me. Thank You for loving me. I’m putting my life in Your hands. I’m making You my Lord. I’m following You. Thank You for accepting me. Thank You for making me Your child. Amen.”

Prayer 4: The Desperate Prayer

“God, I need You. I can’t do this alone. I’m broken. I’m lost. I’m desperate. Jesus, come into my life. Take control. Change me. Make me whole. I’m trusting You with everything. I’m giving You my life. Help me follow. Help me trust. I’m Yours. Amen.”

Prayer 5: The Surrender Prayer

“God, I surrender. I surrender my plans. I surrender my will. I surrender my life. Jesus, You’re in charge now. I’m following You. Not my way. Your way. Not my plan. Your plan. I trust You completely. I commit my life to You. Make me who You want me to be. Amen.”

Prayer 6: The Return Prayer

“God, I’m coming back. I turned away. I wasted time. But I’m coming back to Jesus. I’m recommitting my life. Jesus is my Lord. I’m His. I’m following Him. Forgive me for wandering. Help me stay close. Help me not turn away again. I’m Yours for real this time. Amen.”

Prayer 7: The Public Prayer

“God, I’m saying this before witnesses. Jesus is my Lord and Savior. I believe in Him. I’m following Him. I’m committed to Him. Take my life. Make me Yours. Use me for Your glory. I’m not ashamed of the Gospel. I’m not ashamed of Jesus. He’s my Lord. This is my decision. This is my life. Amen.”

Chapter 39: Prayers for Various Situations

Prayer When Doubting

“Jesus, I’m doubting. I’m struggling. I’m questioning. But I’m not leaving. I’m not giving up. I’m asking You to strengthen my faith. Help me trust despite doubt. Help me believe even when I don’t understand. Give me confidence. Give me peace. Help me follow. Amen.”

Prayer When Struggling With Sin

“God, I messed up. I sinned. I’m sorry. I hate it. I don’t want to do it again. Help me turn away. Strengthen me. Give me power to resist temptation. Forgive me. Restore me. Help me become who You’re making me to be. Amen.”

Prayer When Facing Persecution

“Jesus, they’re mocking me. They’re rejecting me. They’re pressuring me. But You said this would happen. You said I’d face opposition. Give me courage. Give me strength. Give me words. Don’t let me deny You. Help me stand firm. Help me be faithful. Give me peace despite persecution. Amen.”

Prayer When Afraid

“God, I’m afraid. I’m terrified. I don’t know what’s coming. I don’t know how to handle it. But You’re with me. You promised to never leave me. Give me courage. Give me peace. Give me confidence in You. Help me trust despite my fear. Help me follow despite the unknown. Be my shield. Be my strength. Amen.”

Prayer When Lonely

“God, I feel alone. I feel isolated. I miss my old friends. I miss my old life. But I know following You is right. Help me find community. Help me find believers who support me. Bring people into my life. Help me not isolate. Help me remember I’m not alone because You’re with me. Amen.”

Prayer When Tempted to Turn Back

“Jesus, I want to go back. I want my old life. I want my old friends. I want to do my own thing. But I know that leads to destruction. Help me remember why I chose You. Help me remember Your goodness. Help me resist temptation. Help me press forward. Help me stay committed. Give me strength. Amen.”

Prayer When Grateful

“God, thank You. Thank You for saving me. Thank You for forgiving me. Thank You for loving me. Thank You for accepting me. Thank You for community. Thank You for purpose. Thank You for hope. Thank You for eternity. I’m grateful. I’m blessed. I’m Yours. Use me for Your glory. Amen.”

Chapter 40: After-Conversion Prayers

Prayer for Daily Guidance

“God, guide me today. Show me Your will. Lead me in Your way. Help me make right decisions. Help me be kind. Help me be honest. Help me represent Jesus well. Show me opportunities to witness. Show me ways to serve. Guide my steps. Amen.”

Prayer for Spiritual Growth

“God, help me grow spiritually. Give me hunger for Your Word. Help me understand Scripture. Help me apply truth. Transform my character. Make me more like Jesus. Give me spiritual gifts. Help me use them. Help me grow deeper in faith. Help me become more devoted. Amen.”

Prayer for Wisdom

“God, give me wisdom. When I don’t know what to do, show me. When I’m confused, clarify. When I’m uncertain, confirm. Give me discernment. Help me make good decisions. Help me see situations clearly. Give me wisdom beyond my years. Guide my thinking. Amen.”

Prayer for Strength

“God, strengthen me. When I’m weak, make me strong. When I’m tired, refresh me. When I’m discouraged, encourage me. When I’m tempted, empower me to resist. Give me spiritual strength. Give me emotional strength. Give me physical strength. Sustain me. Amen.”

Prayer for Others

“God, help my family. Open their hearts to Jesus. Help my friends see Your love. Help my enemies encounter You. Help my church grow. Help my pastor be faithful. Help my small group go deeper. Help unbelievers hear Gospel. Save them. Transform them. Bring them into Your family. Amen.”

Prayer for Perseverance

“God, help me persevere. When it’s hard, help me keep going. When I want to quit, help me press on. When I’m discouraged, help me stay faithful. Help me finish strong. Help me run the race well. Help me not give up. Help me endure. Help me be faithful until the end. Amen.”

Prayer of Commitment

“God, I recommit my life to Jesus. He’s my Lord. He’s my Savior. He’s my King. I’m following Him. I’m committed to Him. I’m serving Him. I’m His. Take my whole life. Use me. Mold me. Shape me. Make me into who You want me to be. I’m Yours completely. Amen.”

PART 8 — REAL STORIES

Chapter 41: Conversion Stories from Scripture

The Woman at the Well (John 4)

Her Background: Multiple marriages. Current adultery. Shame-filled life.

How She Met Jesus: Jesus asked for water at well. Engaged her. Revealed her secret life with kindness, not judgment.

Her Conversion: She recognized Jesus as Messiah. She went and told entire city about Him. Many believed because of her testimony.

Lesson: No matter your shame, Jesus sees you. Loves you. Transforms you. Your worst past can become your greatest testimony.

Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

His Background: Tax collector. Thief. Corrupt. Hated by entire city.

How He Met Jesus: Climbed tree to see Jesus. Jesus saw him. Called him by name. Said He'd come to his house.

His Conversion: Zacchaeus immediately gave half his goods to poor and restored fourfold what he stole. Jesus said, "Today is salvation come to this house."

Lesson: Jesus doesn't wait for you to clean up. He comes as you are. His presence transforms you.

Peter (Matthew 26, Acts 2)

His Background: Jesus' disciple. Claimed he'd die for Jesus. Denied Jesus three times.

His Conversion (Re-conversion): After resurrection, Jesus specifically appeared to Peter. Restored him. Recommissioned him.

His Impact: Peter preached at Pentecost. 3,000 people saved. He became leader of early church.

Lesson: Failure doesn't disqualify you. Jesus restores failure. Uses failure for greater purpose.

Paul (Acts 9, 1 Corinthians 15:8-10)

His Background: Murdered Christians. Persecuted church. Consented to Stephen's death.

His Conversion: Jesus appeared to him on road to Damascus. Paul immediately became believer.

His Impact: Wrote half the New Testament. Started churches throughout Mediterranean. Became apostle to Gentiles.

Lesson: If Jesus can save the worst persecutor, He can save anyone. Your past doesn't limit God's future for you.

The Thief on the Cross (Luke 23:39-43)

His Background: Criminal. Thief. Dying. No hope.

His Conversion: Hanging next to Jesus, he said, "Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy kingdom."

Jesus' Response: "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."

Lesson: It's never too late. Even in final moments, Jesus saves. Your last chance is God's first opportunity.

Timothy (2 Timothy 1:5)

His Background: Raised by believer grandmother and mother. Exposed to faith from childhood.

His Conversion: Came to faith as youth. Became Paul's disciple and co-worker.

His Impact: Led church at Ephesus. Received two letters from Paul (1 and 2 Timothy) which became Scripture.

Lesson: Faith can begin in childhood. It can deepen through mentorship. Early commitment can lead to lifelong impact.

Chapter 42: Modern Conversion Stories

From Atheist to Believer

Mark's Story: Mark grew up atheist. Science was his god. He mocked Christians. Deemed faith illogical.

At age 30, tragedy struck. His daughter became ill. Medical science couldn't help. Desperate, Mark prayed. His daughter recovered.

That experience cracked open Mark's atheism. He started investigating Christianity. Read Bible. Asked questions. Encountered Jesus.

Today, Mark is passionate Christian. His faith is informed, not blind. He credits encounter with grace to his daughter's recovery.

Lesson: Sometimes it takes crisis to open our hearts. God uses desperate moments to reach us.

From Addiction to Freedom

Sarah's Story: Sarah battled severe addiction. Drugs. Alcohol. Destructive relationships. She'd tried everything: rehab, therapy, medication.

A friend invited her to church. She was skeptical but desperate. During sermon, she encountered Jesus' love personally.

She committed her life to Jesus that day. Not through willpower. Through surrender. Gave Jesus her brokenness.

Today, Sarah is 10 years sober. She volunteers at addiction recovery ministry. Her life testifies to Jesus' power.

Lesson: When human solutions fail, Jesus succeeds. He breaks chains that nothing else can break.

From Religion to Relationship

David's Story: David grew up religious. Christian family. Christian school. Christian everything. But it was just routine. Habit. Cultural.

At college, he met Christians with genuine faith. Not religious. Relational. They had real encounter with Jesus.

David realized he was Christian in name only. He'd never actually decided for himself. Never actually trusted Jesus. So he did. Committed his life genuinely.

Today, David's faith is personal and passionate. He leads small group of college students.

Lesson: Growing up Christian isn't enough. At some point, you must decide for yourself. Make it personal.

From Prosperity Gospel to True Gospel

Jennifer's Story: Jennifer followed prosperity gospel pastor. Gave money. Believed she'd get rich. Her pastor got rich. She got poorer.

Gradually, she realized contradiction. Studied Scripture. Discovered true Gospel: salvation through faith, not fortune. Relationship with God, not riches.

She repented of false belief. Committed to true Jesus. Left prosperity church. Joined Bible-believing church.

Today, Jennifer is genuinely happy despite financial struggle. She has Jesus. That's enough.

Lesson: Make sure you're following true Jesus, not false version. Study Scripture. Know truth.

From Islam to Christianity

Ahmed's Story: Ahmed was born into Islamic faith. Devout. Studied Quran. Prayed five times daily. Lived religiously strict.

A Christian coworker befriended him. Shared Gospel. Ahmed was skeptical. But he investigated Jesus. Read Bible. Found Jesus' claims revolutionary.

Jesus claimed to be God's Son. Jesus offered grace, not works-based religion. Jesus loved unconditionally.

Ahmed couldn't deny Jesus' claims or historical evidence. He committed his life to Jesus. His family disowned him. But he found Jesus worth it.

Today, Ahmed leads house church for Muslims who've come to Jesus.

Lesson: Jesus' Gospel transcends cultural and religious background. He reaches people everywhere.

Chapter 43: Stories of Those Who Waited

Jane: Patient Investigation

Jane's Story: Jane was interested in Christianity for years. She had questions. Lots of questions. She wasn't in hurry.

She read books. Took classes. Had conversations. Studied Scripture. For five years, she investigated thoroughly.

Finally, at age 45, she had enough clarity. Her faith was informed. Her questions were addressed. She committed.

Jane says, "I'm glad I waited. My faith isn't rushed. It's solid. It's based on investigation."

Lesson: It's okay to wait. Investigate thoroughly. God rewards honest seeking.

Marcus: Overcoming Fear

Marcus' Story: Marcus believed Jesus was real. But he was terrified of consequences. His family was religious (different faith). His community would reject him.

For three years, he wrestled with fear. He knew truth. But cost seemed too high.

Finally, he realized life of fear was worse than fear of rejection. He committed to Jesus. His family did reject him. But he found Jesus worth it.

Today, Marcus says, “The relief of living authentic faith outweighs the pain of rejection.”

Lesson: Sometimes you need to work through fear. Don't let it stop you forever. But also don't minimize it. Process it. Then decide.

Lisa: Breaking Free From Doubt

Lisa's Story: Lisa grew up Christian but had deep doubts she never voiced. She doubted God's goodness. Doubted Bible's reliability. Doubted Jesus' resurrection.

She pushed doubts away for years. But they festered. At age 35, she couldn't ignore them anymore.

She took courage. Investigated doubts directly. Read apologetics. Asked Christian scholars. Engaged her questions.

Slowly, her doubts diminished. Not all of them. But enough. She rebuilt faith on solid foundation. Recommitted at age 38.

Today, Lisa's faith is deeper because she didn't ignore doubt. She faced it.

Lesson: Don't be afraid of your doubts. Face them. Many doubts dissolve when investigated honestly.

Robert: From Rebellion to Surrender

Robert's Story: Robert knew Gospel. Understood it. But he wasn't ready. He wanted to do things his way. Live his life. Experience the world.

So he waited. Years of rebellion. Years of living his way. Years of emptiness.

At 50, sitting alone, he realized his way hadn't worked. He'd gotten everything he thought he wanted. Still empty.

He surrendered. Called out to Jesus. Recommitted his life. Found what he'd been looking for all along: purpose, peace, belonging.

Today, Robert wishes he'd surrendered sooner. But he's grateful Jesus waited for him.

Lesson: God doesn't force decision. He waits. But decide eventually. Empty living isn't worth the wait.

Chapter 44: Stories of Those Who Struggled

Anthony: Addiction Battle

Anthony's Story: Anthony committed to Jesus at 25. First year was great. Church. Bible study. Prayer.

Then he relapsed into old addiction. Shame overwhelmed him. He thought God had abandoned him. He stepped away from church.

A pastor found him. Didn't condemn him. Just loved him. Helped him get professional help and church support.

Anthony struggled five more years. Relapse. Recovery. Relapse. Recovery. But slowly, with Jesus and community, he overcame.

Today, Anthony is 15 years sober. He tells others: “Struggle doesn't mean you failed. It means you're human. Jesus is still with you.”

Lesson: Struggle is normal. Relapse doesn't mean failure. Keep fighting. Jesus keeps fighting with you.

Michelle: Marriage Conflict

Michelle's Story: Michelle committed to Jesus. Her husband didn't. This created tension.

Her faith demanded certain values. Her husband rejected them. She wanted church. He opposed it. She wanted to raise kids Christian. He resisted.

For years, they struggled. She prayed for him. She lived her faith consistently. She didn't force it on him.

After 10 years, her husband saw transformation in her. Saw her faith wasn't just words. It was real. He got curious. Started asking questions. Eventually committed to Jesus.

Today, they serve together in church. They testify to how patience and consistent living changed everything.

Lesson: Living your faith well is powerful witness. Don't force it on others. Let Jesus work.

James: Grief and Questions

James's Story: James committed to Jesus at 30. Had beautiful faith. Was growing spiritually.

Then his daughter died. Age 7. Accident. Sudden. Devastating.

James's faith shattered. How could God let this happen? Why didn't He protect her? Is God even good?

For two years, James wrestled with God. Questioned everything. Wanted to walk away.

But Jesus met him in darkness. Not with answers. With presence. With comfort. With inexplicable peace.

Slowly, James's faith rebuilt. Not like before. Deeper. More honest. More dependent on Jesus' presence than understanding.

Today, James helps other grieving people. His pain became ministry.

Lesson: Grief is allowed. Questions are welcome. Jesus doesn't abandon you in darkness. He enters it with you.

Rebecca: Moral Failure

Rebecca's Story: Rebecca was respected Christian. Bible study leader. Volunteer. Everyone knew her.

Then she got involved in affair. Betrayed her marriage. Betrayed her church. Betrayed her Lord.

When discovered, shame was overwhelming. Not just disappointment. Profound shame.

Her church could have condemned her. Instead, they loved her. They walked with her. They helped her grieve, repent, and rebuild.

Her marriage survived through counseling and mutual commitment. Her faith deepened through struggle.

Today, Rebecca leads group for Christians struggling with moral failure. She serves people grace because she received it.

Lesson: Even grave moral failure can be forgiven and redeemed. Jesus' grace is profound. Community's grace can be profound. Healing is possible.

CONCLUSION — WELCOME HOME

You've read 35,000+ words about becoming Christian.

Maybe you've made the decision. Maybe you're still considering. Maybe you have more questions.

All are okay.

If You've Decided to Follow Jesus

Welcome to the family of God.

You've made the most important decision of your life.

Next steps:

- Tell someone (accountability)
- Find a church (community)
- Get baptized (public declaration)
- Start reading Bible (foundation)
- Join small group (discipleship)
- Begin your new life

Psalm 27:1 (KJV):

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

If You're Still Deciding

That's okay.

- Take time to think
- Ask more questions
- Talk to believers
- Investigate further
- Pray honestly
- Let God work

Don't rush. Don't delay. Just be honest.

Jeremiah 29:13 (KJV):

"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

If You Have Objections

Voice them. Don't hide them.

- Ask Christian friends
- Read Scripture
- Research questions
- Work through doubts
- Let faith develop

God welcomes your questions.

1 Peter 3:15 (KJV):

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear;”

Final Thought

Jesus is waiting for you.

Not to condemn you. Not to demand. But to love you. To forgive you. To transform you. To make you whole.

He's inviting you home.

All you have to do is say yes.

John 6:37 (KJV):

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

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Common Bible Verses About Salvation

John 3:16 — “For God so loved the world...”

Romans 3:23 — “For all have sinned...”

Romans 6:23 — “For the wages of sin...”

Romans 5:8 — “But God commendeth his love...”

Romans 10:9 — “That if thou shalt confess...”

Ephesians 2:8-9 — “For by grace are ye saved...”

1 John 1:9 — “If we confess our sins...”

John 1:12 — “But as many as received him...”

2 Corinthians 5:17 — “Therefore if any man be in Christ...”

Revelation 3:20 — “Behold, I stand at the door...”

Appendix B: Resources for New Christians

Bible

King James Version (recommended), ESV, NASB, NKJV

Books

- “Basic Christianity” by John Stott
- “The Case for Christianity” by Lee Strobel
- “Mere Christianity” by C.S. Lewis
- “The Purpose Driven Life” by Rick Warren
- “Knowing God” by J.I. Packer

Online Resources

- BibleHub.com (Scripture study)
- GospelCoalition.org (Theology)
- Desiring God (John Piper ministry)
- CrossWay (Books and resources)

Churches

Find local Bible-believing church at:

- GospelCommunities.com

- ChurchFinder.com

Appendix C: Glossary of Terms

Salvation: Rescue from sin and eternal death through Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Good news that Jesus died for sins and offers forgiveness.

Repentance: Turning from sin toward righteousness.

Faith: Trust in Jesus Christ.

Grace: Undeserved favor from God.

Justification: Being declared not guilty before God.

Sanctification: Being made holy, set apart through Holy Spirit.

Conversion: Turning to Christ, becoming Christian.

Born Again: Spiritual rebirth, new life in Christ.

Redemption: Being purchased back by Christ's death.

Atonement: Jesus' death paying for our sins.

Resurrection: Jesus rising from dead.

Ascension: Jesus returning to heaven.

Second Coming: Jesus returning to earth.

Eternity: Forever with God in heaven.

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Ready to Follow Jesus: Your Complete Guide to Making the Decision, Committing Your Life, and Starting Your Journey as a Believer.

This resource is designed to help you understand, consider, and commit to following Jesus Christ. Share it with others who are considering faith. Use it in your church, small group, or personal study. Pray for everyone who reads it.