

First Step:

Starting Your Life In Christ

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*May God bless you with His Word
and Spirit in your journey of faith!*

Where Do I Go from Here?

➤ GO ON TO THE LIFE IN CHRIST DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING SERIES.

Meet one on one or in a group with someone who will help you continue your spiritual growth.

I will meet with _____.

➤ GET INVOLVED

- in helping the church where needed, using your God-given abilities.
- in a small group, where you'll connect with people.
- in outreach ministries, where you'll have the privilege of serving others.
- in sharing your faith with others and helping them come to faith too.

I will try _____.

Notes: _____

Congratulations!



You have made what you'll find is the greatest decision of your life!

Jesus Christ came as the human representation of Almighty God. When you genuinely repented of your sins and received Him as Lord (letting Him take first place in your life), many things happened:

(In referencing Bible verses, the book of the Bible is named, followed by the chapter number, a colon and the verse number.)

✠ You became a _____.
(JOHN 1:12)

✠ You received _____.
(JOHN 3:16)

✠ You were sealed with the _____.
(2 CORINTHIANS 1:21–22)

✠ Your spiritual nature became a _____.
(2 CORINTHIANS 5:17)

✠ Your sins were _____.
(1 JOHN 1:9)

✠ Heaven _____.
(LUKE 15:3–7)

Can you think of anything more wonderful that could happen to you than receiving Christ? Would you like to thank God in prayer right now for what He has done for you? By thanking God, you demonstrate your new faith!

BAPTISM

What About Baptism?

Becoming a Christian is more than merely believing a creed or trying to live by certain standards. Becoming a Christian is personally receiving Jesus Christ into your heart and life as both Savior and Lord. It is having a personal relationship with the living God.

You May Ask This Question: **“How can I be sure that I am a Christian?”**

The Bible reassures us: “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13). This knowledge is by faith in what God has already done for you in Christ.

Let’s look at the First Letter of John (not the Gospel of John) and find out what “these things” are:

- 1 John 4:15 Do you acknowledge that Jesus is the Son of God?
- 1 John 5:1 Do you believe Jesus is Savior and Lord?
- 1 John 2:5 Do you want to love and obey God’s Word?
- 1 John 3:9–10 Would you rather do what’s right than sin?

A *yes* to these affirms the Holy Spirit’s work in your life. Becoming a fully devoted follower of Christ is a process, like a child growing up to adulthood. It is ultimately the most fulfilling thing you can ever do. You’ll have good days and bad days, ups and downs, but God will never let you go. He is with you and will help you be more like Him.

Baptism doesn’t save you, but it is expected of every genuine follower of Jesus. Why?

Jesus commands (Matthew 28:19) and expects His followers to be baptized as a sign of their commitment (Mark 16:16).

Baptism is a public declaration of your new faith in Christ (Acts 2:38).

1 PETER 3:21

Baptism symbolizes inner cleansing, the pledge of a _____ before God.

COLOSSIANS 2:12

Baptism symbolizes our death to self and resurrection with Jesus: we are _____ with Him and _____ with Him.

Notes:

WHILE RECEIVING CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOR AND LORD IS A ONE-TIME DECISION, GROWING IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A LIFELONG PROCESS.

THERE IS NOTHING THAT COMPARES WITH TRULY WALKING WITH JESUS

What about Church?

*THE CHURCH IS NOT
A SOCIETY OF THE
SUCCESSFUL. IT IS A
FELLOWSHIP OF THE
FORGIVEN.*

People sometimes say, “I don’t need to go to church to be a Christian.” That’s true—a person needs only to genuinely receive Jesus Christ to be a Christian. But “Lone Ranger” Christians are nowhere found in the Bible. Why?

A church family provides you with spiritual guidance, love, prayer, and the structure and accountability you need to grow. It also provides a context in which you can grow and flourish in God’s call on your life. A Christian without a church is like a ball player without a team or a bee without a hive.

HEBREWS 10:24–25

*Together we spur one another on and are not to give up
the habit of _____.*

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

Each believer is a part of the _____.

1 PETER 5:8

*Without a church family, you are a sitting duck for
_____’s temptations.*

Notes:

What about the Bible?

The Bible is a hands-on account of God’s interaction with humanity until the church got going. The principles we find in the stories, prophecies, and instructions apply to everything we deal with today.

God’s Word is organized into two major parts. The Old Testament begins with creation and spans human history to about 400 years before Jesus was born. It mostly revolves around the nation of Israel—from which Jesus came. The New Testament begins with four biographical sketches of Jesus, which are called “gospels.” Acts tells the history of the early church. The remainder of the New Testament is letters specifically addressed to Christians.

*SCRIPTURE IS LIKE A
PAIR OF SPECTACLES
THAT DISPEL THE
DARKNESS AND GIVES
US A CLEAR VIEW OF
GOD.*

Just as we need proper nourishment to grow physically, so we need good nourishment to grow spiritually. If you read God’s Word daily, you will grow strong in your faith.

MATTHEW 4:4

*My physical body is nourished by meals I eat, while my
spiritual nature is nourished by every _____
that comes from the mouth of God.*

God’s Word also guides us.

PSALM 119:105–106

God’s Word is a like a _____ for my path.

Notes:

PRAYER

What about Prayer?

Prayer is talking to God

A DAY WITHOUT PRAYER IS A DAY WITHOUT BLESSING, AND A LIFE WITHOUT PRAYER IS A LIFE WITHOUT POWER.

You don't have to be eloquent or say all kinds of religious phrases. Just talk to God as you normally would with someone you highly respect.

Praying out loud is the best way to pray, because it helps you pray with clear, coherent thoughts (silent prayer is okay but tends to lead to nebulous thoughts).

PSALM 141:1-2

We expect God to hear our _____ when we call to Him.

Prayer is listening to God

As you grow in faith, you will grow in sensitivity to what God is communicating to you.

Take time to meditate on God's Word, think God's thoughts after Him, and ask God to guide you or lead you.

JOB 33:14

God does _____ to us in various ways, though we may not be aware of it.

Notes:

SIN

What About When We Sin?

Before you became a Christian, your sins separated you from God. Upon receiving Jesus as Savior and Lord, you became a child of God. All of your sins were paid for by Jesus on the cross. But why is sin so bad?

SIN IS A FAILURE TO LIVE IN RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS OF LOVE, FIRST WITH GOD, THEN WITH OTHER PEOPLE.

- Sin breaks God's laws.
- Sin damages our relationship with God. You still have a relationship with Him, but intimate fellowship is broken.
- Sin hinders us from becoming and from doing what God has for us.

1 JOHN 1:9

If we confess our sins, our faithful and just God will _____ us our sins and _____ us from all unrighteousness.

Don't try to hide sin from God. When you fail, admit it to Him and ask him to forgive you.

Remember! We are also called to forgive others.

MATTHEW 6:12

We ask God to forgive our _____ in the same way that we forgive those who _____.

Notes: