

How to Become a *Christian*



If you want to become a Christian, you already have evidence God is working in your life. The first and most important step has been done. God has chosen you.

Christianity brings the good news that something supernatural can happen — in Christ, we can be with God, and we can live forever. The good news is that God is inviting you to be in eternal joy with him.

The Work of Christ

We humans are unable to save ourselves. But God loves us so much he has done it for us. “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). And Jesus’ resurrection is evidence we will also live forever.

Even now, in Christ, we have new life (Romans 6:4). That’s the rescue operation going on. That’s what salvation means — it means something happens now, something that affects your life from now into eternity. All because of what Christ has done.

Accept the invitation

Salvation — eternal life — is a gift of God. He makes it available to us through Jesus. Our part

is to accept this gift. God doesn’t force it on people who don’t want it. So how do we accept it? Through faith.

Faith is belief and trust. We believe we need to be rescued, and believe Jesus does it for us. We are incapable of changing our sinful hearts, but through faith in Christ, we are changed by God himself.

God saves us as a gift of mercy. Mercy, by definition, is something we don’t deserve. The Bible calls it grace: “It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

We can never earn salvation by our works, by doing good things.

Trust Jesus

Faith also means trust. We trust Jesus to take care of us. We trust him to teach us, and we accept his teachings. Since he died for us, we want to live for him (2 Corinthians 5:14-15). We are willing to do what he says, to obey him. That is what repentance involves.

He’s the one who made us, who saved us, who loves us, who wants us to live forever in happiness. He has the love and the wisdom to give us instructions that are for our good. We trust him to give us good commands, and we obey them.

We love him and trust him so much that we invite him to live in us. Jesus said, “If anyone loves me,

he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him” (John 14:23).

When we trust Jesus Christ, we ask him to live within us, to teach us and to guide us from within. We are willing for him to change our hearts, to identify our problems and to give us better ways to live.

How do Jesus and the Father live within Christians? By the Holy Spirit — and God promises to give us his Spirit whenever we ask. “How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:13). And that changes our destiny!

“If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you” (Romans 8:11). If God’s Spirit is in you, then you will live forever!

If you ask God for his Spirit to live within you, if you ask the Father and the Son to make their home within you, you can be guaranteed it is done— and you then belong to Christ. You have given yourself to him, even as he gave himself for you on the cross. You are a Christian!

Talk to God

Talk to God — tell him your story. Tell him you admit your sin, you admit your need for forgiveness, you admit your need for his mercy, to cleanse your guilt.

Accept the gift of Jesus Christ, that his death ransoms you from your sins. Repent of going your own way, resolve to do what he wants and ask him to live within you. Accept the gift of his

Son — accept the gift of forgiveness, accept the gift of the Holy Spirit — and accept the gift of eternal life! And be assured that it is done.

What then?

Becoming a Christian does not make all your problems go away. You will still struggle against sin, but you will do so with the assurance that Christ continues to love you, and forgive you through your faith in him. “There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1).

The New Testament shows us that those who believe in Christ are to be baptized as a symbol of their faith, the death of their old sins, and their new life (Romans 6:3-4). Talk to a Christian leader about expressing your faith in this way.

The New Testament also shows that believers meet together frequently to learn from each other and to encourage each other. Find a group of Christians who will welcome and strengthen you in the faith.

If you do these things, welcome to your new life in Christ! You are a Christian.

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