



What happens when I become a  
**Christian?**



**LIFE**CHURCH

WE'RE **HERE** FOR YOU

# What happens when I become a **Christian?**



Welcome to the family of **God!** You have begun an exciting journey where you can know the **Creator** of the **Universe** as your **Perfect, Heavenly Father** with whom **nothing** is impossible!

*Welcome to the family of God!*

This booklet is designed to help you understand what it means to be a Christian. The word Christian means to be a believer in Jesus Christ and His teachings. The word Christ, comes from the word Messiah, which means 'anointed one' or 'saviour'.

In the Bible we read that Jesus said things like, "I have come that your joy may be full." "I have come that you may have life and it more abundantly." "I have come not to condemn the world but to save it." He also said, "If you receive me then you receive my Father."

"I have come that your  
**joy** may be **full**"

The life and teachings of Jesus reveal the very nature of God. He said, "If you have seen me, then you have seen my Father." God's plan was to show the world through Jesus, what He is like and just how much He loves all people.

Jesus went about preaching good news, telling everyone about the love of God. He went from town to town bringing healing and freedom to people, reconciling broken homes, giving peace and joy, imparting health and confidence.

*"If you have seen me, then  
you have seen my Father."*



As we come to know Jesus more and more by coming to Church, reading the Bible, praying, and connecting with other believers, our lives start to take on the very same qualities of Jesus and we come to know God more and more for who He really is.

Everything you need for a fruitful, blessed life comes through your new relationship with Jesus and it is His joy to lead you, help you, and fill you with a love for life and people that overflows.

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

John 3:17; 15:9-11; Matthew 28:20; Acts 10:38; John 8:12; John 17:1 & 3

## God's amazing plan of salvation

“God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn its people. He sent Him to save them!” John 3:16-17 (CEV)



God is love and He created us to be His children and friends. He is completely holy, just, righteous, good and pure, and desiring to share His love and life with something outside of Himself, He created Man - Adam and Eve.

God and man lived in wonderful harmony and friendship with each other, until man chose to disobey God and eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In choosing his own will over God's, man broke union with God and the "sin" problem began.

**"As sin came into the world through one man (Adam), and death as the result of sin, so death spread to all men, [no one being able to stop it or to escape its power] because all men sinned."** Rom 5:12 (AMP)

**"Nothing can separate  
you from His love"**

Sin literally means to miss the mark; to not live in a way that pleases God. The Bible says, "Everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." (Rom 3:23 NLV) No matter how hard we try to be a good person, we all miss the mark and sin in some way or another. This is the cause of the problems in our world today; people are selfish, they lie, steal, adulterate, betray, are unkind and hurt one another all because of sin.

God knew we could not live a sinless life; the problem was the consequence of sin is death – eternal separation from God. Mankind was separated from Him with no way of stopping or escaping sin and death's power; but God's desire hadn't changed and because of His great love for us, He worked out an amazing plan to save and restore man's relationship with Himself. God Himself came to earth as a man to pay the punishment of our sin!

**“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

Jesus came to take the punishment that we deserve on Himself and die for the sins of all mankind. That way, a relationship could be possible between God and man without our sins preventing us from getting close to God, both in this life and the next. Until we come to realise this truth, receive Christ into our lives and commit ourselves to Him, the separation between man and God still exists. The good news is that Jesus has made a way and invites us to be reunited to God.

**“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life...”**

Now having made the decision to accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, you can feel secure to go to God as your Father, knowing that nothing can separate you from His love, and that you are totally forgiven for anything that has happened in your past.

Romans 8:1; Acts 13:37-39; Matthew 23:9





## **You are Saved from the Punishment of Sin**

John 3:36 NKJV: “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe in the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

God sent His Son, Jesus – fully God and fully man - into the world. Conceived not through sinful man but by the Holy Spirit, He was a man of flesh and blood like us, but He lived a sinless life. Completely innocent, He allowed Himself to be crucified by sinful men so that by dying on a cross He could pay the penalty of sin once and for all, and by His pure and sinless

blood set us free from the power of sin and death and restore our relationship to God!

Jesus rose from the grave three days later because death could not hold Him – it had no valid claim on Him because He was sinless – He was victorious, He had paid the price for us, conquering sin and death and had made a way for man back to God!

**John 3:36 NKJV: “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe in the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”**

Now all those who believe in Jesus can have wonderful harmony and friendship with God just as He always intended. God looks at the cross and says, “You are not guilty. The penalty has been paid, you are free from the punishment of sin and forgiven of all your past mistakes. You are holy, righteous, good and pure in My sight because you believe that Jesus took your place and shed His blood for you.”

So now we live in fellowship with God, eternally grateful, in awe of Jesus and His sacrifice of love for us, and God’s marvellous rescue plan of salvation and eternal life!

**“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”** Rom 5:8 (NKJV)

John 1:29; John 3:16-21; John 14:6; Romans 3:22-26, 4:5, 5:1, 5:6-11, 7 &8

## **You are made new**

**“Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new.”** 2 Corinthians 5:17 (CEV)

“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

We are made new when we become Christians. God completely forgives our past mistakes and gives us a bright new beginning in life, a clean start. On a spiritual level, we are made perfect the moment we believe in Jesus; on an earthly level, we find ourselves on a path to becoming like Jesus and this takes time.

“He has **created** us  
**anew** in Christ Jesus...”



Nothing is impossible for God, and we can find old habits and characteristics changing as we live our lives connected and surrendered to Jesus. Sometimes this happens instantaneously – a miracle of God.

Sometimes these changes take place over time as we learn to know God more and our thinking changes as we start to see things from His perspective. God loves us just the way we are – but too much to let us stay that way. His joy is to set us free from the pains, habits and unkind ways of speaking and acting of the past, and give us His good, loving, peaceful nature for the present.

*"God adopts us  
into His own family..."*



That way our life brings Him glory and honour. This isn't something you have to earn or achieve through strict rules and regulations, but it is freely given to you as you daily trust in Jesus and ask Him to lead your life and fill you with His life.

Like a tree, as you let your roots grow down into Jesus you will find yourself becoming everything that God has created you to be.

Eph 4:22-24; 2 Cor 5:17; 2 Peter 1:3-4

## **You become a part of God's own family**

“Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do and it gave Him great pleasure.”

Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

Jesus is the Son of God, and when we believe in Him, God adopts us into His own family as a son or daughter. All the blessings Jesus experienced through His connection to His Father are now given to us as well, just like any other growing family.

This is what God has wanted to do for mankind all along. The peace Jesus had amidst all the chaos and conflict in His life, the miracles He performed, the unconditional love and kindness He showed, the confidence and strength He displayed were all a result of His union with His heavenly Father. And now, because Jesus has united us with God, our loving heavenly Father freely gives us everything we need for life and happiness. Our heavenly Father, watches over us, protects us, believes in us, provides for us, and loves us no matter what!

So now, when you go to church or meet up with other believers, these people are a part of God's very own family too, they are your brothers and sisters in Christ!

Romans 8:15-17; John 5:19-21; John 14:10-11

## **You receive God's Holy Spirit**

**“Do you not know that your body is the temple (the very sanctuary) of the Holy Spirit Who lives within you, Whom you have received [as a Gift] from God?”**

1 Corinthians 6:19 - Amplified Translation.

You have become a child of God by becoming a Christian! God is your Father, and He won't leave you alone in this world and, just as the world's most perfect Father loves, cares for, protects and helps their child, God will do the same for you! That is not to say that we won't go through difficult times – Jesus also went through difficult times – but just as Jesus overcame and was victorious, so He now gives us His Holy Spirit to overcome and be victorious! When Jesus went into heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to take His place on this earth.



“**You** have become a child of **God**...”

Jesus said that it is for our good that He has sent the Holy Spirit. Jesus as a man could only be in one place at a time, but the Spirit of God is everywhere, is full of power and knows all things. This is the same Spirit who was at the beginning of Creation when the world was formed, the same Spirit who empowered Jesus to live a life that pleased God, perform miracles and endure pain and hardship with grace and love, the same Spirit who now lives in each of God’s children.

He helps us get to know God as our Father and develop a strong, loving relationship with Him. He gives us wisdom to know what to do even when we don't understand and cannot see the future. He shows us what the right thing to do is and enables us to do it. He gives us peace, which exists even in the hardest and most painful of times. He gives us a deep-rooted joy, which can't be found in any superficial alternatives. He heals us from past wounds and hurts and gives us freedom to live and enjoy life. He helps us to fulfil our potential of being everything we were created to be. He delivers us from fears, and gives us strength, hope and security.

As you spend time with God, worship Him, read the Bible, come to church and meet with other believers, you will become more aware of the Holy Spirit's help in your daily life.

Matthew 7:11; John 16:7; Psalm 139:7; Isaiah 40:13; 1 Corinthians 2:6-13; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Proverbs 3:5-8; Romans 8:11

## **You have a Saviour to empower you from day to day**

“So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered Heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for He faced all of the same testings we do, yet He did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will find grace to help us when we need it most.” Hebrews 4:14-16 (NLT)



Jesus was a man – fully human – but also fully God. When God came to earth as a human, it meant that He felt the emotions we feel and experienced life as any other person did in His time and culture. He grew as a child, was surrounded by siblings and neighbours, developed as a man, had a normal working life as a carpenter... so He knows what it's like to be human!

The amazing thing is that although Jesus faced similar challenges to us and experienced the same emotions and similar pressures – and even more for being the Saviour of the world! - He kept Himself right before God.



He did the right thing in the face of all types of temptation and opposition; He kept enduring throughout times of pain and never gave up despite it all; His relationship with His heavenly Father gave him all the confidence, joy, strength, peace, power and wisdom He needed to overcome all the difficulties life can throw and come out victoriously!

**“I can do **all** things through **Christ** who strengthens me.”**



So now in our lives, with all the hurdles, failings and mistakes we can face personally, or with family, work, friends, health and marriage, we can be assured that He will enable us to overcome and be victorious. Because Jesus was victorious, we can be too, by depending on Him.

We will then be able to join with the Apostle Paul, who says in Philippians 4:13 of the bible:

**“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”**

Just like a vine and a branch, without the vine the branch will fail to bear fruit and wither away, but when it remains connected to the vine its fruit is inevitable. The same is true with Jesus, He is the vine and we are the branches; when we stay connected to Him, we will be fruitful! Our lives will shine with His purity, His peace, His wisdom, His strength, His kindness, His amazing love!

Jesus said, **“I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)”**.

Philippians 2:6-8; John 1:14; John 10:10; Philippians 4:13; Romans 16:25; Psalm 139; Matthew 10:30; Romans 8:28-30; 2 Samuel 22:2-4

## **You have a heavenly home**

**“But we are citizens of Heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives...”** (Philippians 3:20 NLT)

When you became a Christian, you are instantly given the right to enter heaven – the place where you will enjoy God forever. It is a place of perfection where there will be no pain or sorrow because sin is not there. Hell is the place where all those who do not receive and surrender to Jesus will end up. It is a place devoid of peace and love; it is separate from God and houses all things sinful and evil. But praise God! He has provided a way of escape; He has given us Jesus so that none of us have to go to this dark place but all can have eternal life. We don't get to

heaven through good deeds or reputation, God grants us access when we simply believe that Jesus died for the penalty of our sins and was raised to give us a new life. It's as we live our lives connected and surrendered to Jesus, that He produces a harvest of good deeds in our lives. When God is our first love, He fills us with His unconditional love for humanity and causes us to be a light to the world!

John 12:44-50; Philippians 3:12-14; Revelations 20:11; Revelations 21:1; Isaiah 40:6-8; 1 Corinthians 13:12; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; James 2:17



## Let's Recap...

What an INCREDIBLE moment in your life! When you become a Christian by receiving Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour you can be sure that:

- You are saved from the punishment of sin.
- You are made new.
- You become a part of God's own family.
- You receive God's Holy Spirit.
- You have a Saviour to empower you from day to day.
- You have a heavenly home.

WOW! The message of Christianity is good news! It tells us that God loves us no matter what we've done in our life, that He forgives and saves us through His Son Jesus Christ and that He heals, makes new, and gives us a life worth living when we surrender to Him! It's a new life full of His goodness and love!

**"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be Holy and without fault in His eyes."** Ephesians 1:3-4 NLT

## **Let's Pray...**

In this moment think about God's love for you, how He sent His only Son to die for you and take away your sin, and how just as He raised Jesus from the dead, so He has raised you with Him into a brand new life!

Pray this prayer out loud to God.

"Father I thank you that you love me and that you gave Jesus to die and take away my sin. Thank You for giving me Your Holy Spirit. I surrender my whole life, everything completely to you. Teach me your ways and guide me along the best pathway for my life. Amen."

## **Now...**

Continue to spend time with God by praying every day and reading your Bible. That way you will come to know Him more and more and experience His goodness in your life, He will help and strengthen you.

Keep coming to church. You will get encouraged and inspired by God as He speaks to you through the worship and the Pastor's message.

Make some Christian friends at church or in Life Groups.

If we can assist you in any way or if you wish to speak with someone, give us a call at Life Church and one of our Pastors will be happy to connect with you.



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