

## SALVATION

### *How Someone Becomes a Christian*

There is a difference between a church attendee and a follower of Christ. Many people who are not Christians might have a respect for who God is and occasionally attend church, but they have never genuinely committed their lives to Christ. He or she may know about Jesus from a historical perspective and believe He was a good teacher, but they have not become an authentic believer. The difference between someone who simply knows about God and someone who truly believes in God is simple: it's a relationship.

A relationship is built on commitment and trust. Once someone is willing to commit their lives to Christ then the Christian life becomes real to them. Prior to this commitment a religious life is just a series of good habits, social activities and wishful thinking. Being religious is a dull routine that often results in a hypocritical lifestyle. Being in a relationship with Jesus is dynamic, purposeful and heart-felt.

We find the first step to getting connected to God is by experiencing a genuine spiritual birth through Jesus Christ. In John 14:6, Jesus tells us, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." These words are absolutely emphatic in the original language. Absolutely no one can come to God, the Father, unless they come to Him through Jesus, the Son. This is the message Peter gave the rulers, elders, and teachers of Israel. He told them, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by whom they must be saved," (Acts 4:12).

Since this is the case, our natural response should be, "So how can I experience this spiritual birth? How can I become a genuine follower of Jesus, or as Jesus told Nicodemus, be "born again?" Actually, all of these terms (being born again, having a spiritual birth, becoming a genuine follower of Jesus) are all wrapped up in what it truly means to be a Christian. Here are things that people incorrectly think can make them a Christian:

- Being baptized
- Joining "the right" church
- Being good
- Being religious
- Because my parents were Christians

Let's consider what the Bible tells us about sin and saving faith in Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us:

- **Romans 3:23**, *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*
- **Romans 5:8**, *"but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*
- **Romans 6:23**, *"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*
- **John 3:16**, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."*
- **Romans 10:9**, *9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."*

We can't do anything to earn or deserve the gift of salvation. If we could, it would not have been necessary for Jesus to die on the cross to pay for our sins. It's that simple. He died so our sins could be forgiven, and we could have eternal life. How do we receive this incomprehensibly great gift? We receive it by believing in Jesus' death and resurrection, asking God to forgive us of our sins and allowing Him to help us turn from our sins.

So how does one have a relationship with Jesus? Simple, you make a personal, profession of Faith.

It's as simple as ABC:

**A – Admit that you are a sinner and cannot get yourself into Heaven.**

**ROMANS 3:23**, *"FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD."*

**B – Believe Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty of your sin and purchase a place for you in Heaven.**

**ROMANS 5:8**, *"BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE FOR US IN THIS: WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US."*

**C – Confess to Jesus that you want Him to forgive you of your sins, come and live in your life and become your Savior and Lord.**

**Romans 10:9-10, 13**, *“that if you confess with your mouth, “jesus is lord,” and believe in your heart that god raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10for it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved... 13for, “everyone who calls on the name of the lord will be saved.”*

If you have any uncertainty about whether you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and are saved, please take time to pray a prayer similar to the following:

“Dear Lord,

I know that I have broken your commands and I am a sinner. I want to turn from my sins today and accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I believe that Jesus, Your divine Son, came to this earth and lived a perfectly sinless life, so He could pay the price of my sins upon the cross. I believe that He died on the cross for me and physically rose from the grave just as the Bible tells us He did. Please forgive me of my sins and send your Holy Spirit into my heart and life so I can be born again and become the new creation in Christ that You’ve promised to make me. I ask you to do this in the name of Jesus. Amen.”

