

How To Get To Heaven



And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Acts 2:21

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Preface

All of us are eternal beings because we were made in God's image. After physical death, our spirits will live forever. Where we reside—heaven or hell—will depend on whether we have accepted or rejected Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior.

Scripture teaches that all have sinned and deserve a penalty. There isn't anything we can do to earn God's forgiveness. Knowing this, our heavenly Father sent His Son Jesus to take our sins upon Himself and experience punishment in our place. In that way, we become part of God's family and look forward to spending eternity with Him in heaven. His only requirement for this amazing blessing is that we acknowledge we're sinners who need a Savior and believe that Jesus died to save us. Those who reject Christ will spend life after death separated from Him, but those who believe will live forever with Him.

Every person will ultimately dwell in heaven or hell, both of which are real places described in the Bible. In heaven, we'll never again know pain, sorrow, or tears. But hell is the opposite. A place of punishment, it will be the scene of unending agony and torment.

Eternal punishment and the reality of hell are never easy topics to consider, but they are vitally important because they will really happen. Don't let your emotions turn you away from the truths recorded in Scripture. Instead, take heed of the warnings, and be certain you are heaven-bound.

This booklet will show you the way to get to Heaven.

Introduction

This book has been prepared specifically for you...

1. If you have never heard of Jesus Christ and know nothing about Salvation, that is how you can know for sure you will go to Heaven when you die.
2. If you think you are already saved and just want to make sure you will go to Heaven some day.
3. If you know you are saved for sure and just want to know more about what that means in your life today.
4. If you know you are saved for sure but worry you might lose your Salvation.

Start on Page 5 if you know nothing about Salvation.

Start on Page 8 if you are ready to get saved.

Start on Page 9 if you think you are saved but really want to know for sure.

Start on Page 10 if you are worried you might lose your Salvation.



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.

John 3:16

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All About Salvation

What is Salvation?

Salvation is deliverance from danger or suffering. To save is to deliver or protect. The word carries the idea of victory, health, or preservation. Sometimes, the Bible uses the words saved or salvation to refer to temporal, physical deliverance, such as Paul's deliverance from prison (Philippians 1:19).

More often, the word "salvation" concerns an eternal, spiritual deliverance. When Paul told the Philippian jailer what he must do to be saved, he was referring to the jailer's eternal destiny (Acts 16:30-31). Jesus equated being saved with entering the kingdom of God (Matthew 19:24-25).

What do I need to be saved from?

In the Christian doctrine of salvation, we are saved from "wrath," that is, from God's judgment of sin (Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9). Our sin has separated us from God, and the consequence of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Biblical salvation refers to our deliverance from the consequence of sin and therefore involves the removal of sin.

Who does the saving?

Only God can remove sin and deliver us from sin's penalty (2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5).

How does God save? In the Christian doctrine of salvation, God has rescued us through Christ (John 3:17). Specifically, it was Jesus' death on the cross and subsequent resurrection that achieved our salvation (Romans 5:10; Ephesians 1:7). Scripture is clear that salvation is the gracious, undeserved gift of God (Ephesians 2:5, 8) and is only available through faith in Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12).

How do we receive salvation?

We are saved by faith. First, we must hear the gospel—the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection (Ephesians 1:13). Then, we must believe—fully trust the Lord Jesus (Romans 1:16). This involves repentance, a changing of mind about sin and Christ (Acts 3:19), and calling on the name of the Lord (Romans 10:9-10, 13). A definition of the Christian doctrine of salvation would be "The deliverance, by the grace of God, from eternal punishment for sin which is granted to those who accept by faith God's conditions of repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus." Salvation is available in Jesus alone (John 14:6; Acts 4:12) and is dependent on God alone for provision, assurance, and security.

The Romans Road To Salvation

The Romans Road to salvation is a way of explaining the good news of salvation using verses from the Book of Romans. It is a simple yet powerful method of explaining why we need salvation, how God provided salvation, how we can receive salvation, and what are the results of salvation.

We are all sinners

The first verse on the Romans Road to salvation is Romans 3:23, 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.' We have all sinned. We have all done things that are displeasing to God. There is no one who is innocent. Romans 3:10-18 gives a detailed picture of what sin looks like in our lives.

The penalty for sin is hell

The second Scripture on the Romans Road to salvation, Romans 6:23, teaches us about the consequences of sin - 'For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.' The punishment that we have earned for our sins is death. Not just physical death, but eternal death!

Jesus died to pay for our sins

The third verse on the Romans Road to salvation picks up where Romans 6:23 left off, 'but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.' Romans 5:8 declares, 'But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.' Jesus Christ died for us! Jesus' death paid for the price of our sins. Jesus' resurrection proves that God accepted Jesus' death as the payment for our sins.

We must confess our sins

The fourth stop on the Romans Road to salvation is Romans 10:9, 'that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.'

We must call on The Lord

Because of Jesus' death on our behalf, all we have to do is believe in Him, trusting His death as the payment for our sins - and we will be saved! Romans 10:13 says it again, 'for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sins and rescue us from eternal death. Salvation, the forgiveness of sins, is available to anyone who will trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

What this means to you right now

The final aspect of the making the journey to salvation is the results of salvation.

Romans 5:1 has this wonderful message, 'Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.' Through Jesus Christ we can have a relationship of peace with God. Romans 8:1 teaches us, 'Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.' Because of Jesus' death on our behalf, we will never be condemned for our sins.

Never worry about losing your Salvation

Finally, we have this precious promise of God from Romans 8:38-39, 'For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

How To Get Saved

1. Admit that you are a sinner.

Romans 3:23 KJV

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

2. Believe that Jesus died to pay for your sins.

John 3:16-17 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.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

3. Confess your sins and Call on Jesus to save you.

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.

Acts 2:21 KJV

And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

4. Say The Sinner's Prayer

God, I know that I am a sinner. I know that I deserve the consequences of my sin. However, I am trusting in Jesus Christ as my Savior. I believe that His death and resurrection provided for my forgiveness. I trust in Jesus and Jesus alone as my personal Lord and Savior. Thank you Lord, for saving me and forgiving me! Amen!

How To Know I Am Saved

Do you doubt your salvation? You're not alone. Many Christ-followers experience times when their faith wavers and the enemy whispers accusations that cause them to doubt if they are really saved. Just as a slow but steady drip can damage over time, repeated trials and temptations can cause cracks in our spiritual armor. We stumble, as though the ground beneath us were crumbling, although it is our steps that are uncertain; the foundation of our faith is as sure as it ever was.

The book of 1 John is a powerful antidote for doubting and wavering in our faith. He makes it clear that his purpose in writing is that we know that we have eternal life. We aren't meant to live in a perpetual state of doubt.

"These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life".

(1 John 5:13)

Doubt is a sickness that must be addressed; it will lay us low and keep us off the battlefield, right where the enemy would have us. To counteract doubt, here is what The Bible says and seven clear indications of true salvation that should be evident in the life of a believer.

What The Bible Says

If you think you have been saved and will go to Heaven when you die but just want to make doubly sure you have found the right page. Here are some verses right out of The Bible that will reassure you.

Romans 10:9-10

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Ephesians 1:13-14

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your

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salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit.

John 10:28-30

Jesus said I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. "I and the Father are one."

7 Signs of True Salvation

1. A True Believer Has a New Awareness of Sin

1 John 1:5-9 – This is the message we have heard from Him, and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The unsaved man is not concerned about sin. He may have regret for his actions when the consequences are not to his liking, but he can easily set aside any lingering shame or guilt in the pursuit of his desires. He justifies himself when he acts outside the laws of man or morality, and when that doesn't satisfy, he redefines what sin is. He compares himself to others, always able to find someone more unworthy, so that he can feel better about himself.

In contrast, the person who has experienced salvation has an ever-heightened sense of his own sin. There is the initial, life-changing, moment-of-salvation recognition of our sinful condition before a holy God, in which we know that we are lost and condemned; this awareness results in a confession of sin. Forgiveness is humbly sought, and repentance takes place; we turn away from our sin and turn to God. A true believer also exhibits a growing awareness of his sinful flesh, as God exposes our weaknesses, failures, desires, and old habits that are displeasing to Him. The regenerated heart is continually humbled and contrite, hating all things sinful and desiring fellowship with God.

2. A True Believer Has a New Desire

1 John 2:3-4 – By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 3:3,9 – And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. ... No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because is born of God.

John is not preaching a religion of legalism, but of love for the Law-Giver. Human nature rebels against being told what to do. Adam and Eve, although created in perfection, were given the gift of free will. The exercise of their will in disobedience to the will of God is known as “The Fall,” and resulted in the separation of mankind from his Creator. We are all born with free will and, in Adam’s likeness, the unregenerate human heart has no desire to be ruled.

The unsaved man resists the commands of God, but the saved man desires to please Him. This new desire to obey God’s commands comes from the indwelling Spirit of God. When we meet the inherently good Law-Giver, we realize that all His commands are subsequently good – good for me, you, and all humanity. The boundaries He places on our words, actions, and thoughts are not the tired efforts of a tyrannical despot who wants to control us, but are shelters of loving protection in which we have freedom to experience all that God desires to give us. The true believer desires to obey God, and His commandments are a source of comfort and security, and wisdom for daily life.

3. A True Believer Has a New Love

1 John 2:9-10 – The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. The one who loves his brother abides in the Light, and there is no cause for stumbling in him.

1 John 3:14 – We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.

The saved man loves his brothers and sisters. Jesus said this would be the distinguishing mark of His disciples, and that the world would know we belong to Him by how we love our brothers. John uses the word “love” 26 times in five short chapters; 16 of these refer directly to loving one another. Point made. We cannot claim to be in Christ unless we love the children of God.

A special bond exists between men and women who belong to the family of God, no matter if they speak the same language or even live in the same country. We love those whom God loves, because He first loved us (1 John 4:11,19). John gives us two litmus tests to reveal if we are truly “loving our brother.” We love others by loving God and keeping His commands (1 John 5:2), and we are willing to sacrifice ourselves for them by meeting their needs (1 John 3:16-18).

4. A True Believer Has a New Theology

1 John 4:15 – Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

1 John 2:22-23 – Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.

John draws a theological line in the sand five times, leaving no room for misinterpretation. The true believer accepts Jesus as the Son of God, the Christ. His deity is not up for debate. He is not “like” God, just a prophet, or only a good teacher. He is the Son of God, sent from heaven to explain God to humanity (John 1:18). A true believer’s faith is rooted in the fact of Jesus’ true identity as the sinless Savior, fully God and fully human.

5. A True Believer Has a New Master

1 John 2:15-17 – Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 5:19 – We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

Scripture is very clear that we are either serving God or serving His enemy, Satan. Salvation is described in terms of a military operation, in which God rescues us from the domain of darkness and transfers us to the kingdom of Jesus (Colossians 1:13). As true believers, we serve a new Master. We no longer love the things of this world, and we spend our time, money, talents, strength and our very lives to do the will of God. Everything we do is evaluated and prioritized on its value to the Kingdom, in light of our salvation and the call of God.

6. A True Believer Has a New Power

1 John 2:20, 27 – But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. ... As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

1 John 4:13 – By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

The true believer has something that the unsaved man can never understand or experience: the indwelling Spirit of God. Jesus promised this gift, indicating that the presence of the Spirit of God in us would be even more advantageous than Jesus Himself being present in a human body! (John 16:7-15).

The indwelling Spirit of God is described as an “anointing,” a Greek word which refers to something smeared on, as an ointment. The priests were anointed with oil, signifying they were set apart by God, for the work of God. The oils were aromatic, made of herbs, reminding us of Paul’s words in 2 Corinthians 2:14-17, where he describes the believer as one through whom God manifests the “sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.”

This aroma is the presence of the Spirit of God in us, giving us the power to overcome sin and temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13), the power to speak the gospel (1 Corinthians 2:4), the power to understand Scripture (1 Corinthians 2:14, John 16), and the power to live a fruitful life in the image of Christ (Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Peter 1:3-11, John 15:1-11).

7. The True Believer Has a New Purpose

1 John 2:28 – Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

The unsaved man is not concerned about life after death, for he lives only for this world. For him, everything he can see, touch and hear is reality, and the unseen things may or may not matter to him. In contrast, it is the spiritual world that is the most real for the true believer. We understand that the physical world is temporary and will one day pass away, and that the eternal, spiritual things are the reality. We live here on earth, but our hearts and minds are looking heavenward. Our hope is not to build a good life here and die peacefully, but to abide daily in Christ, being used up, worn out, and spent for the gospel and the glory of God.

The true believer lives with anticipation of the return of the Savior, when everything will be set right, and justice and righteousness will reign. For the saved, this world holds little attraction, except to provide a temporary place to wait for our real lives to begin.

And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. (1 John 5:20)

Can I Lose My Salvation?

If you hear anyone preach that you can lose your salvation because you have done something bad after you got saved please remember the following:

- 1. Just because you got saved it does not mean you will never sin again. It is in our human nature to sin. The only person to ever walk the face of this earth without sinning was Jesus Christ.**
- 2. When Jesus died on the cross to pay for your sins it included every sin you had ever made in your past and every sin you would ever make in your future.**
- 3. Jesus is incapable of lying so when He said "I give eternal life to you, and you will never perish; and no one will snatch you out of My hand" He meant it!!!**
- 4. When The Bible said That God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life He was including you!!!**

Preserving Your Assurance Of Salvation

Satan is an enemy of every believer, and his lies gnaw away at our faith. The apostle Paul calls his schemes “flaming arrows” and assures us that our shield of faith is able to extinguish all of them (Eph. 6:16). But the devil still tries to put doubts about our salvation into our minds, hoping that we’ll drop our shield of faith and believe him. However, if we understand his methods, we can be vigilant and avoid his traps.

Unconfessed sin

Satan tempts us to sin, and if we yield, he whispers, “You can’t be saved. Look at what you just did.” This harassment cycle continues until we finally confess the sin and claim God’s promise that those who receive Christ are saved (1 John 5:10-12).

Ignorance of God’s Word

If a believer isn’t well grounded scripturally, he can be fooled by false teaching. For example, it’s not uncommon to hear that we can’t be certain of redemption or that salvation can be lost. But we have the sword of the Spirit to silence the lies, because false doctrines simply do not withstand biblical scrutiny. That’s why it’s essential to study the Word.

Reliance on emotion

When we rely on feelings and experiences rather than the truth of God’s Word, the ordinary ups and downs in our spiritual life may cause us to “feel” unsaved. However, genuine assurance is built on faith in the Lord and the promises in His Word—not on emotions.

Hold up your shield of faith, take the sword of God’s Word, and trust Him to fight for you in battles against the enemy. The Lord is your defense and protection.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might.

Ephesians 6:10-20

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against

the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

14 Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,

15 and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE;

16 in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

17 And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

19 and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,

20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

God Loves You - Even You!

You are never too big of a mess for God to redeem. Nothing is beyond His ability to restore. There is no deep, dark pit where God cannot find you and pluck you back out of its depths. He is an all-knowing, all-consuming God who is a great defender of His children.

What have you lost in your past? Has someone hurt you so deeply that you can't seem to get your life back on track? Have you lost yourself, feeling as if you are drowning in the pain of yesterday's agony? Has life left you feeling defeated?

Today you can be set free in Jesus' name and move on to a beautiful tomorrow. Do not let someone else control your future. Do not let an event from the past dictate your "next event."

Whatever you have lost, God can restore it. He can heal you, refresh you, and cleanse you from all unrighteousness. Call on Him today and ask forgiveness for you past, moving on to a breath-taking tomorrow. Yesterday is over. Good or bad; it's gone. Focus on the horizon and the unlimited potential you have through Christ Jesus.

I Just Got Saved - What Just Happened?

In Christian circles, we often hear people talk about grace, but do we understand what it means? Scripture uses this word in reference to God's goodness and kindness, which is freely extended to those who are utterly undeserving—and that includes all of us.

God's grace is the means of our salvation through Christ and the basis by which He sees us. By grace, we are ...

Declared righteous. All of our guilt and shame have been removed, and Christ's righteousness is credited to us as our own (2 Corinthians 5:21). Now we can live boldly for Jesus no matter who we once were.

Part of God's family. A spiritual adoption has taken place so that we might become children of God and call Him Father (Eph. 1:5). Although the world may see us as insignificant, we should remember we're children of the King.

Made co-heirs with Christ. Our inheritance is guaranteed and kept for us in heaven (1 Peter 1:4). We've been set free from the lure of materialism because we're rich in the only way that matters (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Given new life. When we trust in the Savior, we are born again and receive a fresh start (2 Corinthians 5:17). The seal of this new life is the indwelling presence of God's Holy Spirit, who transforms us into the image of Christ and guarantees our future resurrection (Eph. 1:13-14).

Freed from the power of sin, Satan, and self. Grace teaches us to deny ungodliness and live righteously in obedience to God (Titus 2:11-12).

From the beginning of salvation to our eternal future in heaven, we are covered by God's unending grace.

I Just Got Saved - Now What?

1. Make sure you understand salvation.

First John 5:13 tells us, “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” God wants us to understand salvation. God wants us to have the confidence of knowing for sure that we are saved. Briefly, let’s go over the key points of salvation:

(a) We have all sinned. We have all done things that are displeasing to God (Romans 3:23).

(b) Because of our sin, we deserve to be punished with eternal separation from God (Romans 6:23).

(c) Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus died in our place, taking the punishment that we deserved. Jesus’ resurrection proved that His death was sufficient to pay for our sins.

(d) God grants forgiveness and salvation to all those who place their faith in Jesus—trusting His death as the payment for our sins (John 3:16; Romans 5:1; Romans 8:1).

(e) The Holy Spirit comes to reside permanently within at the moment of faith. He assures us of everlasting life. He teaches us God’s Word and empowers us to live according to it.

That is the message of salvation! If you have placed your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior, you are saved! All of your sins are forgiven, and God promises to never leave you or forsake you (Romans 8:38–39; Matthew 28:20). Remember, your salvation is secure in Jesus Christ (John 10:28–29). If you are trusting in Jesus alone as your Savior, you can have confidence that you will spend eternity with God in heaven!

2. Find a good church that teaches the Bible.

Don’t think of the church as a building. The church is the people. It is very important that believers in Jesus Christ fellowship with one another. That is one

of the primary purposes of the church. Now that you have placed your faith in Jesus Christ, we strongly encourage you to find a Bible-believing church in your area and speak to the pastor. Let him know about your new faith in Jesus Christ.

A second purpose of the church is to teach the Bible. You can learn how to apply God's instructions to your life. Understanding the Bible is key to living a successful and powerful Christian life. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

A third purpose of the church is worship. Worship is thanking God for all He has done! God has saved us. God loves us. God provides for us. God guides and directs us. How could we not thank Him? God is holy, righteous, loving, merciful, and full of grace. Revelation 4:11 declares, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

3. Set aside time each day to focus on God.

It is very important for us to spend time each day focusing on God. Some people call this a "quiet time." Others call it "devotions," because it is a time when we devote ourselves to God. Some prefer to set aside time in the mornings, while others prefer the evenings. It does not matter what you call this time or when you do it. What matters is that you regularly spend time with God. What events make up our time with God?

(a) **Prayer.** Prayer is simply talking to God. Talk to God about your concerns and problems. Ask God to give you wisdom and guidance. Ask God to provide for your needs. Tell God how much you love Him and how much you appreciate all He does for you. That is what prayer is all about.

(b) **Bible Reading.** In addition to being taught the Bible in church, Sunday School, and/or Bible studies – you need to be reading the Bible for yourself. The Bible contains everything you need to know in order to live a successful Christian life. It contains God's guidance for how to make wise decisions, how to know God's will, how to minister to others, and how to grow spiritually. The Bible is God's Word to us. The Bible is essentially God's instruction manual for how to live our lives in a way that is pleasing to Him and satisfying to us.

4. Develop relationships with people who can help you spiritually.

1 Corinthians 15:33 tells us, “Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character.’” The Bible is full of warnings about the influence “bad” people can have on us. Spending time with those who engage in sinful activities will cause us to be tempted by those activities. The character of those we are around will “rub off” on us. That is why it is so important to surround ourselves with other people who love the Lord and are committed to Him.

Try to find a friend or two, perhaps from your church, who can help you and encourage you (Hebrews 3:13; 10:24). Ask your friends to keep you accountable in regard to your quiet time, your activities, and your walk with God. Ask if you can do the same for them. This does not mean you have to give up all your friends who do not know the Lord Jesus as their Savior. Continue to be their friend and love them. Simply let them know that Jesus has changed your life and you cannot do all the same things you used to do. Ask God to give you opportunities to share Jesus with your friends.

5. Be baptized.

Many people have a misunderstanding of baptism. The word baptize means “to immerse in water.” Baptism is the biblical way of publicly proclaiming your new faith in Christ and your commitment to follow Him. The action of being immersed in the water illustrates being buried with Christ. The action of coming out of the water pictures Christ’s resurrection. Being baptized is identifying yourself with Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4).

Baptism is not what saves you. Baptism does not wash away your sins. Baptism is simply a step of obedience, a public proclamation of your faith in Christ alone for salvation. Baptism is important because it is a step of obedience – publicly declaring faith in Christ and your commitment to Him. If you are ready to be baptized, you should speak with a pastor.