



Have you felt the tug of God on your heart? Becoming a Christian is the most important step you will take in your life. Part of becoming a Christian means understanding that everyone sins. The Bible says the price or penalty for sin is death. Read on to discover what the Bible teaches about becoming a Christian and what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

Salvation Begins With God

The call to salvation begins with God. He initiates it by wooing or drawing us to come to him.

John 6:44

"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. ..."

Revelation 3:20

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in. ..."

Human Efforts Are Futile

God desires an intimate relationship with us, but we cannot obtain it through our own efforts.

Isaiah 64:6

"All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags. ..."

Romans 3:10-12

"... There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one

who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

Separated by Sin

We have a problem. Our sin separates us from God, leaving us spiritually empty/dead.

Romans 3:23

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

It is impossible for us to find peace with God through our own efforts. Anything we try to do to obtain God's favor or gain salvation is worthless and futile.

A Gift from God

Salvation, then, is a gift from God. He offers the gift through Jesus, his Son. By laying down his life on the cross, Christ took our place and paid the ultimate price, the penalty for our sin: death. Jesus is our only way to God.

John 14:6

"Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'"

Romans 5:8

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Respond to God's Call

The only thing we must do to become a Christian is respond to God's call.

Still wondering how to become a Christian?

Receiving God's gift of salvation is not complicated. The response to God's call is explained in these simple steps found in God's Word:

1) Admit you are a sinner and turn away from your sin.

Acts 3:19 says: "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."

Repent literally means "a change of mind that results in a change of action." To repent, then, means to admit you are a sinner. You change your mind to agree with God that you *are* a sinner. The resulting "change in action" is, of course, the turning away from sin.

2) Believe Jesus Christ died on the cross to save you from your sins and give you eternal life.

John 3:16 says: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

Believing in Jesus is also a part of repenting. You change your mind from unbelief to belief, which results in a change of action.

3) Come to him by faith.

In John 14:6, Jesus says: "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

Faith in Jesus Christ is a change of mind that results in a change of action--coming to him.

4) You may pray a simple prayer to God.

You may want to make your response to God a prayer. Prayer is simply communicating with God. Pray using your own words. There is no special formula. Just pray from your heart to God, and believe *that he has* saved you. If you feel lost and just don't know what to pray, here's a prayer of salvation.

Dear Lord,

I admit that I am a sinner. I have done many things that don't please you. I have lived my life for myself. I am sorry, and I repent. I ask you to forgive me.

I believe that you died on the cross for me, to save me. You did what I could not do for myself. I come to you now and ask you to take control of my life; I give it to you. From this day forward, help me to live every day for you and in a way that pleases you.

I love you, Lord, and I thank you that I will spend all eternity with you.

Amen.

5) Have Faith.

Salvation is by grace, through faith. There's nothing you did or ever can do to deserve it. It's a free gift from God. All you have to do is receive it!

Ephesians 2:8 says: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves; it is the gift of God."

6) Tell someone about your decision.

Romans 10:9-10 says: "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. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."