

# So You're a Christian . . . Now What?

Congratulations on your new faith in Christ!

A wonderful, life-changing experience is in store for you as you begin your walk with God. The good news is, God has provided everything you need for the journey.

Here are some of the provisions God has made for your salvation:

- **You have been born into the family of God.** Jesus explained it this way, “. . . Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” (John 3:5) Born of water refers to our physical birth. Spirit birth refers to a person's new birth into God's family. This took place the moment you trusted Christ as your Savior.
- **God has started a work in your life.** God loves you just the way you are, but He doesn't want to leave you there. He wants you to look and act like His Son, Jesus. “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:” (Philippians 1:6).
- **All of your sins have been forgiven – past, present, and future.** This is because of the complete payment made by Christ's shed blood. Romans 8:1 says, “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”
- **You have been given the Holy Spirit to help you do what's right.** “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;” (John 14:15).
- **You are saved forever.** You can never lose your salvation because the Bible promises you everlasting life, from the moment you became a Christian. “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.” (John 6:47)
- **Your life has a new purpose.** God saved you for service. You are His representative to the world. “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

Here are a few tips to help you get started in your relationship with Jesus Christ:

**1. Spread the good word.** Tell someone about your new faith in Christ. Whether this person is a pastor or just a Christian friend, they can rejoice with you, pray for you, and mentor you in your relationship with God.

**2. Take part in believers' baptism.** Baptism is a public profession of your faith in Christ. It doesn't make you a Christian, but lets others know you are a Christian.

**3. Spend time with God.** Just as in any relationship, getting to know God takes time.

Check out what the Bible says about God. Find a Bible which matches the original translation as closely as possible (The King James Version, New King James Version, or New International Version are all good choices).

God has given us everything we need to know about Himself and about life in the Bible. In fact, He wrote it for that express purpose.

Don't be intimidated by the size of the Bible. Think of it like a textbook. It was designed to be read in sections. A good place to begin reading is the Gospel of John. You can find it in your Bible's Table of Contents.

It's a good idea to develop a daily habit of reading the Bible. Each of the different sections of this "textbook" declares God's love for you. Read it like a love letter, because that's exactly what it is.

Building your relationship with God is made easier when you set aside daily quiet time. Jim Berg's *Changed Into His Image Series*<sup>1</sup> explains:

1. Bible Reading
  - ✓ Ask God to speak to you about His direction for your life.
  - ✓ Follow a Bible reading schedule so you can read with purpose.
  - ✓ Read until God shows you something you can apply to your life.
  - ✓ Thank God for what He has shown you in His Word.
  - ✓ Share what you have learned with others.
2. Meditation
  - ✓ Memorize the passage.
  - ✓ Analyze the passage. Study with a dictionary to make sure you understand each verse. Once it makes sense, put the passage in your own words.
  - ✓ Personalize the passage. Ask yourself how the passage speaks to you in your specific situation. Are you obeying God's Word, or do you need to make some things right with Him? Talk to God about the truths He has shown you.
3. Prayer—If you really want to get the most out of your new relationship with God, start talking regularly with God. You can record these conversations in a prayer journal.
  - ✓ Praise God for Who He is and what He has done in your life.
  - ✓ Repent (change your mind) about your sin. When you know you have sinned against God or someone else, quickly make things right so you can move forward.
  - ✓ Ask God to provide for your needs.

✓ Yield yourself to God. Allow Him to change and use you as He sees fit.

**4. Surround yourself with growing believers.** Proverbs 27:17 says, “Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.” While it is important to build a personal relationship with God, it is also important to build relationships with other Christians. They can play a big part in helping strengthen your walk with God. This is why you should start attending a solid, Bible-teaching church.

**5. Share your faith.** So you believe Christ died for your sins and rose from the dead?—Don’t keep it a secret! All Christians are commanded to share the good news (Mark 16:15). You don’t have to have a seminary education or graduate from a new members’ class at your church to obey this command. Take advantage of every opportunity you’re given to share the gospel. The Bible says, “. . . He that winneth souls is wise.” (Proverbs 11:30)

Feel free to browse [thebiblewayministries.com](http://thebiblewayministries.com) to read or listen to sermons on a variety of topics to help meet your spiritual needs.

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<sup>i</sup> Berg, Jim, *Taking Time to Change*, Bob Jones University Press, (Greenville, South Carolina) 1999, p.186-188.