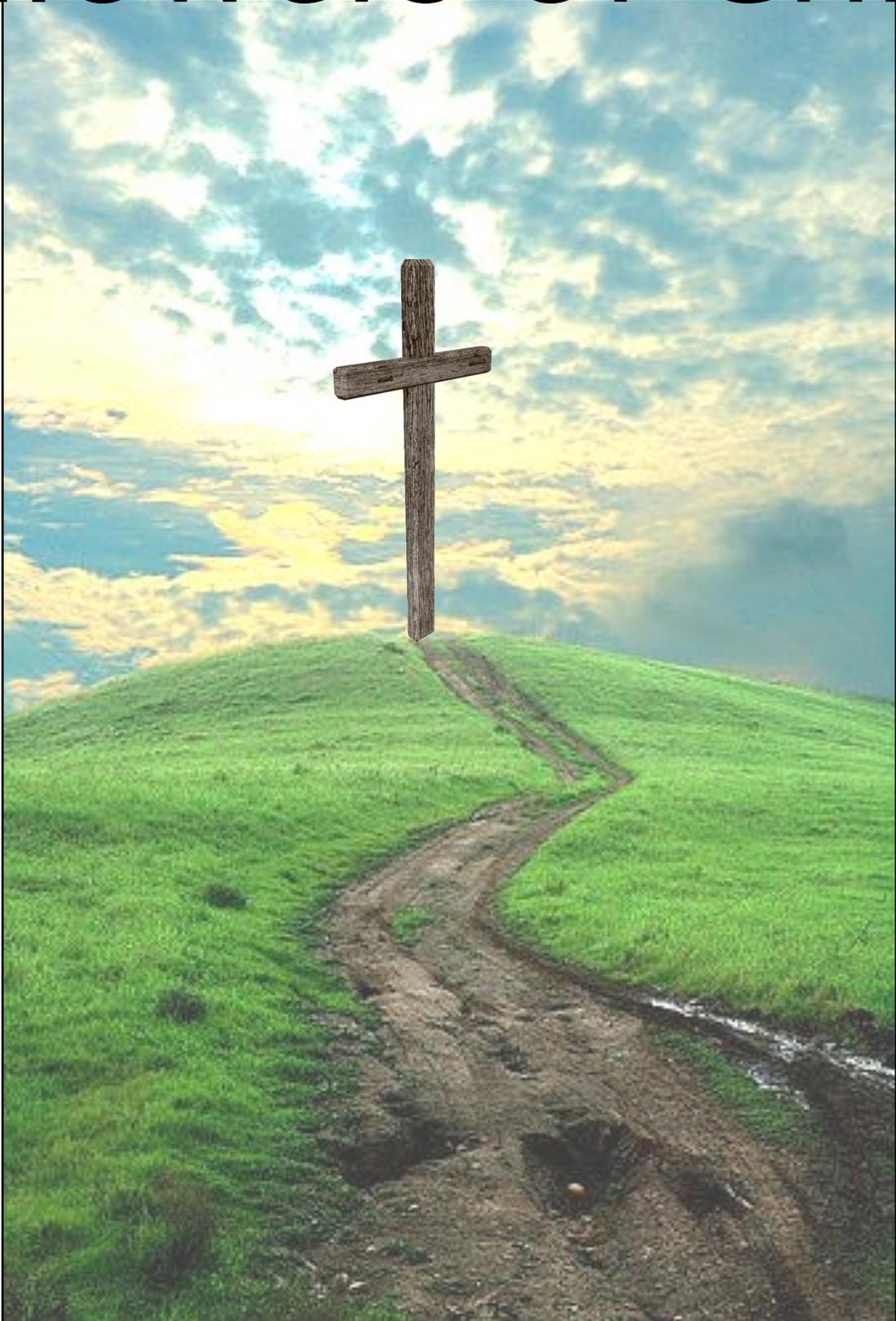


Followers of Christ



After the prayers, what happens next?

Myths about being a Christian

1. Does going to church make someone a Christian?

Attending church does NOT make you a Christian but following Jesus, both by example and in faith, is what being a Christian means. His example is to depend on God the Father and accept His unconditional love.

Eternal life is the promise of Christianity that comes through both forgiveness of sins and obedience to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (John 3:16, 1 John 1:9, John 4:15)

2. Is going to church optional for a Christian?

Attending church does have its benefits, besides the fact that it is commanded in the Bible. Through the good routine of hearing God's Word, offering praises to God that acknowledge His greatness and finding friendships with other Christians, you can strengthen your relationship with Jesus Christ and discover ways to grow even deeper in your walk with Him. (Hebrews 10:25)

3. Does the main part of Christian life happen in church?

The Sunday experience is significant for Christians but even more than that, experiencing God on all the other days is a worthy goal. Studying the Bible, daily prayer and socializing with other Believers *outside* of church strengthens your relationship with God. The Bible explains how God's Word can stop sin and there are countless examples of prayer outside of church that bring miracles from Heaven. Also, early followers of Christ would meet both in the temple courts and in homes. (Psalms 119:11, Acts 2:46)

4. Are Christians any better than non-Christians?

Unfortunately everyone sins, Christians too, and we all therefore need God's forgiveness through His son Jesus Christ. Actually, God delights in our humility so we should not think we are better than anyone. Christians are, however, forgiven by God and get help from Jesus Christ to avoid evil. (Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, I John 1:8-9, Matthew 23:12)

5. Do all Christians hold a certain political point of view?

Christians are actually from every walk of life, political point of view, ethnic background, economic strata and tradition. They simply believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord and strive to follow Him by example and faith.

6. Are Christians defined by what they do *not* do?

Actually, Christians can be defined by positive behaviors they have in common because of the influence of God's Spirit and God's Word. They are commanded to love, forgive, and to do good works, to name a few. Also, nothing can separate us from the love of God through Jesus Christ. This is evidenced by many Believers that have had controlling or destructive habits but find help through their faith in God. Furthermore, it is expected that evil will cease because of God's mercy. (Romans 8:35-39, Romans 6:1-2, Romans 8:1, Titus 3:5)

7. Does a relationship with Christ eliminate most of life's problems?

Jesus did say we would still have trouble in this world but He also promised He would walk with us and help us to prevail through all our difficulties. (John 16:33, Hebrews 13:5)

Journey to freedom

1. What will Jesus do for me?

Jesus promised He would be with you from here to eternity. He will walk with you by the presence of the Holy Spirit and will lead you to a better life now and an eternal life with our Father in Heaven. His roles are many: Savior, Intercessor (which means He prays for you), Good Shepherd, Healer, Protector, Provider and Counselor; just to name a few. (Matthew 28:19)

2. Why do I need forgiveness and God's help?

Praying for forgiveness and help is a decision that puts your life in God's hands. Your supernatural Creator is defined in the Bible as "Love". His help is only good and allowing Him to influence your life is very beneficial. The obstacle to this excellent way of life is sin. Sin is a barrier you have placed between your life and a holy God. Everyone has sin and everyone needs forgiveness that leads to God's help through His Son Jesus Christ. God's help comes through Jesus Christ. (I John 4:8, Romans 3:23, Romans 8:1, I John 1:9, Matthew 1:21, John 14:6)

3. What did Christ accomplish on the cross?

Essentially, Jesus took the punishment for your sin when He submitted himself to be crucified on the cross. He took the punishment that He did not deserve so that you could receive the salvation through forgiveness that you do not deserve. In the Communion service (The Lord's Supper) we remember that His body was broken for us when we eat the bread and we remember that His life blood was shed as a sacrifice for our sin when we drink the cup. The Bible reminds us that we all needed Him to do this for us because we are all guilty of sins that hinder our relationship with God the Father. (II Corinthians 5:21, I John 1:8)

4. Why is the Holy Bible considered God's Word?

The Holy Bible is the all-time best seller throughout world history and continues to be in modern times. While there are obvious cultural references that place its origins thousands of years ago, its words still ring true today and it changes people's lives for the better. Within the pages of this collective work are 66 books that reveal an honest account of God's interaction with mankind since creation. The words "and God said" or their equivalent are found over 2,500 times in the Bible indicating that this unique work of literature actually claims to be inspired by God. It says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God". Many famous people of history hold these verses to be both sacred and useful like Abraham Lincoln, Daniel Webster, Isaac Newton, Charles Dickens, Galileo and Pascal; just to name a few. It is within these pages where we find Christmas, Easter, Heaven, the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, eternal life and many classic stories like David and Goliath, Noah's Ark and the Resurrection. (II Timothy 3:16)

5. Why should I pray and what should I say?

Because you are reunited with God through forgiveness, you can talk to Him at any time, formally or informally. He wants to stay connected with you to help you because He loves you. The Lord's Prayer ("The Our Father") is useful both as a memorized *prayer and as an outline for informal prayers you could pray from your heart. Prayer can also be sincere conversations with God throughout your day. Prayer is talking *with* God. The Bible says, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God...Cast all your cares upon Him; because He cares for you." He can help you. **Talk with God because He loves you.** (*Matthew 6:9-13, I Peter 5:6-7)

* Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

6. Can going to church really help me if I plan to read my Bible and pray more?

Consider how God made us all to be social creatures. We need each other, He wants us to connect with each other. The Bible talks about the importance of attending church when it says, “Let us not give up meeting together”.

Church helps you on your journey with Christ through group prayer, Bible studies and through a relationship with other Christians. Also, many commandments can be more easily followed in a local church like baptism, loving one another, singing spiritual songs and receiving the Lord’s Supper. Finally, your daily walk with the Lord is strengthened when you get involved with the Family of God at church. Here, you will find help and supportive relationships for faith in Christ. (Hebrew 10:25)

7. If I am a follower of Christ, what must I do?

Jesus summed it up when He said, **“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength: this is the first commandment. And... You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.”** Jesus also said, **“A new commandment I give unto you, That you love one another; as I have loved you... By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”** This kind of love is God’s love which He gives to us so that we will share it with others. It is better than romantic love or brotherly love because it is unconditional. He demonstrated His love for us when He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, to the world. This is a deeper spiritual kind of love that is much better than a mere feeling. It is demonstrated. God gives us His love as a gift to share. In other words, because you are loved by the one who knows you best, you can love others. (Mark 12:30-31, John 13:34-35, John 3:16, Galatians 5:22)

WHERE SHOULD I START?

Read your Bible, Pray Regularly, Get Involved with a Good Church.

And Jesus said...

“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me.”

**If you want to be a follower of Jesus Christ,
please pray this simple prayer.**

**“Father God,
Forgive me of any sins I have done and come into my life to
help me live a better life on earth and find an everlasting life
with You in heaven. I pray through Jesus Christ Your Son.
-Amen”**