



THE NEXT STEP

Where do you go from here?

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

If you are reading this, then that means you have made the decision in your heart to put your trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Jesus, God's Son, was God's way of making right what we messed up. Though He never sinned (Hebrews 4:15), He died on a Roman cross for you and I. The punishment He endured was for your sake and, by believing this in your heart, His sacrifice counts in your place. By faith, His death counts as the death you deserved to die because of sin. Christ, as your substitute, has taken your sin so that you in turn can live freely, passionately, and on purpose for the glory of God.

Why this pamphlet? Because, if the only point of you saying yes to Jesus Christ was to get you into Heaven, then He would have already taken you. But you are still here, still reading. Why? Because salvation is so much more than just a way to Heaven. It has to do with this life as well. Simply put, there are steps now, as a follower of Christ, that God wants you to take. These are steps that not only honor Him, but also position you to thrive as one of His children. Christ is more than a decision; He is a lifestyle. He desires every aspect of your life to revolve around Him.

Now that you belong to Christ, here are five steps we want to encourage you to take immediately. You cannot afford to procrastinate. Here are the five:

- **Tell Somebody**
- **Plug into a Life-Giving Church**
- **Be Baptized**
- **Read the Bible**
- **Pray**



➤ Step 1: Tell Somebody!

There is no better way to solidify the decision you have made to follow Jesus than to tell somebody. Paul wrote, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes..." (**Romans 1:16**). When you tell someone, three things happen. First, the excitement of what Christ has done for you and in you grows. The more you share, the more thankful and passionate you become. Second, by telling someone, you are making sure that you do not become the type of Christian that is scared of talking about your faith. Jesus said that Christians are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world (**Matthew 5:13-14**). And third, the person you share your faith with is blessed. If he or she already knows Christ, your story will produce greater faith in that person's heart. And if the person is not a Christian, now that individual gets a chance to hear about Jesus and what He has done in your life.

⬆️ Step 2: PLUG INTO A LIFE GIVING CHURCH

The Bible says, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another-- and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (**Hebrews 10:24-25**) *We are commanded to be a part of the church because we need each other to spur one another on to good works.* What does a life-giving church look like? It is a church that prioritizes the preaching and teaching of God's Word, the person and work of the Holy Spirit, worship,

loving others, witnessing, and building relationships. There are several life-giving churches in this area, including ours. We would love for you to join our church and walk out your faith with us. That being said, our main concern is that, even if it is not here with us, that you do find a life-giving church and get involved. We need each other. You cannot do this alone. God designed us to need not only Him, but each other. Loving God and loving people are the two greatest commandments ([Matthew 22:36-40](#)).

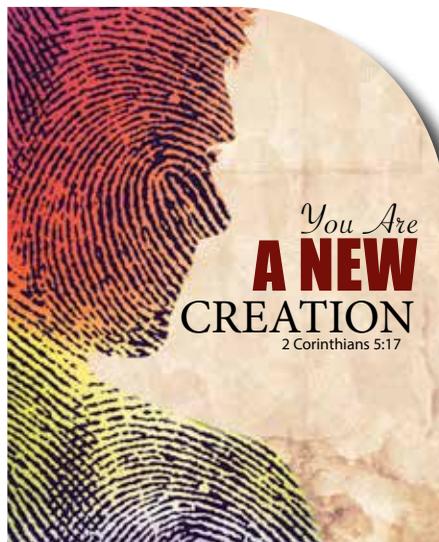
➔ Step 3: Be BAPTIZED



The Bible tells us that not long after Jesus was raised from the dead, Peter, while preaching to a large group of people, said, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” ([Acts 2:38](#)) The Bible is clear that, when a person puts their faith in Jesus Christ, that individual is to be baptized (see [Acts 8:12](#) for another example). Baptism follows salvation. It is important for three reasons. First and foremost, it is something Jesus commanded. Therefore, it is an act of obedience. You do it to honor God. Second, it is a symbol of salvation. When you accepted Christ, you became a new creation. When a person is baptized, they are immersed under water. This is a picture of burial. The old you without Christ is being buried. After one is immersed, they are then raised back up out of the water. This is a picture of rebirth. The water is broken just like in physical birth. This is a picture of the new you with Christ being raised to new life!

➔ Step 4: READ the BIBLE

Paul wrote to Timothy, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)) The Bible is one of God’s greatest gifts to His children. Here is a list of things God will do in your heart when you read His word: show you who He is, convict you of sin, encourage you, challenge you, comfort you, give you practical wisdom for different situations you face, tell you something to share with someone else, show you what to pray for, strengthen you, and fill you with His supernatural life and energy. This, no doubt, is the short list. When you read God’s word, you are inviting Him to open your eyes, lead you, touch your heart, and change your life. The Psalmist wrote, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” ([Psalms 119:105](#)) God reveals Himself through His Word. You must pick it up. Psalms, Proverbs, and the New Testament are great places to start.



➔ Step 5: PRAY

Prayer, simply put, is having a conversation with God. Jesus said, “But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” (Matthew 6:6-8) Jesus makes a few things clear here. First, when you pray, approach God like a child approaches a dad (a good dad). Second, every Christian is expected to have a quiet, private place where they get alone with God and converse with Him. This is a great time to read the Bible, worship, talk to God about yourself as well as others, and listen for His voice. Without prayer, you will not have any of His power to live the life He has called you to. Prayer connects your heart to His.

HERE ARE SOME GREAT

RESOURCES

Smart Phone Bible Apps:

Bible, Wordsearch, Glo Bible, Accordance, Bible Gateway. These apps are free and are for iPhone and Android phones. Go to your app store and search for them.

Websites:

Biblegateway.com, Crosswalk.com, rlministry.org, Biblestudytools.com, Blueletterbible.org, Rightnowmedia.com, e-sword.com

Bible Software:

Wordsearch, Glo Bible, E-Sword, Quickverse, Logos

Worship Music:

Kari Jobe, Chris Tomlin, Passion, Hillsong, Matt Redman, Charlie Hall, David Crowder

If you would like more information about following Jesus contact us:

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