



Salvation – becoming a Christ-follower

God's plan for your life

For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Jesus was born, lived a sinless life and died in a way that mirrored the ritual sacrifices of the Old Testament festival of Atonement. He shed His blood on the cross at Calvary to pay the full price of the sins of all mankind so that we might be reconciled to God and begin to live empowered by His resurrected life.

God is at work in everyone's life to bring them to the point of repentance. This is God's grace (an unmerited gift).

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)

How it works

For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

What happens next?

These things happen between God and the person seeking salvation:

1. God gives the gift of faith to be saved
2. The person recognises that they are disappointed with their attempts to live up to their own standards of behaviour and other life goals and needs help. The bible calls this disappointment '*sins of commission and sins of omission*'. The person recognises they are a sinner.
3. The person confesses their sin and accepts God's gift of forgiveness.
4. They use this gift of forgiveness to forgive themselves and they start living in the power of the Holy Spirit with the assurance of their eternal destination.

Moving on

The point of repentance and salvation may occur in a single moment or may be a process over time. The salvation decision always precedes believer's Baptism into the Name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The ongoing process of salvation, also known as *sanctification*, continues throughout the life of the believer.

Some of these people choose to identify with Christ in Believers' Baptism.

Find out more

The pastors, elders and study group leaders are available to discuss this further and answer any questions you might have.

A sample prayer to receive Jesus as your Lord and Saviour.

Here is a very simple prayer that you can pray to open the door of your heart to Jesus Christ and invite Him to come into your life by His Spirit: Lord Jesus Christ,

I am sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life take a few moments to ask his forgiveness for anything particular that is on your conscience [New International Verse].

Please forgive me. I now turn from everything that I know is wrong.

Thank you that you died on the cross for me so that I could be forgiven and set free.

Thank you that you offer me forgiveness and the gift of your Spirit. I now receive that gift.

Please come into my life by your Holy Spirit to be with me forever.

Thank you, Lord Jesus.

Amen.