

AN INVITATION TO FOLLOW HIM

BEGIN WITH *Christ*

What the Bible says about starting a new life in Jesus



GRACE FOR A RENEWED MIND

This Is for You

Maybe you picked this up because something in you is tired. Maybe you have sat in church your whole life and never once called Jesus your own. Maybe you have done things you would not want anyone to know. Maybe you are only curious.

Whatever brought you here, you are not here by accident.

The Bible does not begin with what you must do for God. It begins with what God has done for you. Before you were born — before you had any chance to be good or bad — God set His love on you and made a way home. This little book is about that way, and about what happens the moment you take it.

You do not have to clean yourself up first. You do not have to understand everything. You need Jesus. He is not a rule to keep. He is a person to receive.

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

JOHN 6:37

What God Has Done

1 God made you, and He made you for Himself.

You are not an accident and you are not your own invention. You were made in His image, on purpose, for relationship with Him.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him.

GENESIS 1:27

2 Sin cut you off from Him.

Sin is not only the wrong things you have done. It is the whole life lived without God at the center. Every one of us has lived it.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

ROMANS 3:23

3 The cost of that is death — and God did not leave you there.

The Bible is honest about the wage sin pays. It is equally honest about the gift God gives.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ROMANS 6:23

4 Jesus died in your place and rose again.

God did not ask you to pay. He came Himself, in the person of Jesus Christ, took your sin on the cross, and walked out of the grave three days later.

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

ROMANS 5:8

5 He calls you to turn and believe — and He receives you.

That is the whole invitation. Not a course to finish. Not a standard to reach. Turn from your sin, trust Christ, and come.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God.

JOHN 1:12

Come to Christ

Coming to Jesus is not a feeling and it is not a performance. The Bible describes it with three plain words.

TURN

Repent means to change your mind so deeply that you change direction. You stop walking away from God and start walking toward Him. You are not promising to be perfect. You are agreeing with God about your sin and leaving it behind.

TRUST

Believe means to rest the weight of your life on Jesus — not on your goodness, your religion, your family, or your fresh start. He is the only Savior there is, and He is enough.

SAY SO

Confess means to say it out loud. Faith that stays hidden stays small. Say it to God now, and say it to a person today.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

ROMANS 10:9

A PRAYER TO BEGIN

Give Him Your Life

Heavenly Father,

I come to You as I am. I have sinned, and I know it. I am sorry — not only for what I have done, but for the life I have lived without You.

Thank You for sending Jesus. Thank You that He carried my sin to the cross and rose again, and that there is nothing left for me to pay.

Lord Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God. I turn from my sin and I turn to You. Forgive me. Come into my life and make me new.

From this day forward I belong to You — not to my old ways, not to my fear, not to anyone else.

Teach me to follow You. I will need You every day.

Amen.

The words are not the door — Jesus is. Pray it slowly and mean it. If you would rather use your own words, do that. He hears the heart.

What Just Happened

If you prayed that prayer and meant it, you are not almost a Christian. You are in Christ. Four things are true of you this minute.

You were forgiven.

Not partly, not on probation. The whole debt, cancelled the moment you asked.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 JOHN 1:9

You were made new.

This is not a resolution you have to hold up. It is a new life you have been given.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

You were adopted.

God is not your distant judge any more. He is your Father, and you may call Him that.

Ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

ROMANS 8:15

You are kept.

You did not save yourself and you will not keep yourself. He holds you, and no one takes you out of His hand.

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

JOHN 10:28

You may not feel different yet. Feelings catch up later; the promise is already true. God's word about you is more reliable than your mood.

NOW THAT YOU HAVE BEGUN

THE FIRST SEVEN STEPS

Faith is not finished when you pray. It has begun. What follows is not a list to earn what Christ has already given you — it is what a new life looks like on its feet.

Start with the first one today.

O I STEP ONE OF SEVEN

Tell someone today.

Say it out loud to one person before you sleep tonight: a friend, a family member, a pastor, anyone who will listen. Faith spoken becomes faith you own. You are not asking for permission and you are not taking a vote — you are simply saying, “I have given my life to Jesus.” Expect some people not to understand. Say it anyway.

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

MATTHEW 10:32

TODAY

Send one person a message before you sleep: “I gave my life to Jesus today. I wanted you to know.”



02 STEP TWO OF SEVEN

Read the Gospel of John, one chapter a day.

Start with John chapter 1 today. Read slowly, a paragraph at a time, and ask one question as you go: what is this showing me about Jesus? Underline what stops you. Do not worry about the parts you do not understand — you have a lifetime. Everything you need to know about Him is in this book, and it will read you while you read it.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

TODAY

Read John 1. Write down one sentence you noticed, and pray it back to God.



03 STEP THREE OF SEVEN

Pray in your own words, every day.

There is no special language and no perfect posture. Talk to God the way you would talk to someone in the room — honestly, briefly, daily. A simple shape: thank Him for something, tell Him the truth about what you did wrong, ask Him for what you need, and then be quiet for a minute. Morning is best. A few real minutes beat an hour you never get around to.

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

TODAY

Three quiet minutes before bed: thank Him for one thing, tell Him one thing you are sorry for, ask Him for one thing you need.



04 STEP FOUR OF SEVEN

Find a church that teaches the Bible, and go this week.

Look for a church where the Bible is opened and Jesus is honored — not one that only talks about Him. Then go, this Sunday, and tell someone at the door that it is your first time. Sit near the front. You are not shopping for a perfect church; you are joining a family, and families are made of imperfect people who need the same Savior you do.

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another.

HEBREWS 10:25

THIS WEEK

Find one church near you that teaches the Bible and write down its service time. Put it in your calendar now, before you close this book.



05 STEP FIVE OF SEVEN

Be baptized.

Baptism does not save you — Jesus does. It is the first step of obedience, and it is how you go public with a faith you have already confessed. Ask the pastor to baptize you. It is a picture of what has happened inside you: buried with Christ, and raised to walk in a new life.

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

ROMANS 6:4

THIS WEEK

Ask a pastor: “What do you ask of someone who wants to be baptized?” Then say yes to the date they give you.



06

STEP SIX OF SEVEN

Turn from what you know is wrong — and keep short accounts.

You will still stumble; every believer does. What changes is what you do next. Do not hide it and do not drown in it. Name it to God, receive the forgiveness He has already promised, and get up. If a habit has a hold on you, tell one trusted believer and let them help you. Grace is not a license to keep sinning; it is the power to stop.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 JOHN 1:9

TODAY

Name one thing you know is wrong. Tell God plainly, then tell one trusted believer and ask them to pray with you.



07 STEP SEVEN OF SEVEN

Do not walk alone.

Find one person who will ask you hard questions and pray for you — and then find a small group or Bible study and keep showing up. This is the step people skip, and it is the one that holds the rest together. A new believer on their own is a soldier with no one watching their back.

Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow.

ECCLESIASTES 4:9–10

THIS WEEK

Ask about a small group or Bible study and say yes to the next meeting — even if you feel out of place walking in.



Your First Seven Days

One chapter a day for your first week. Read it, then write down one sentence you noticed and pray it back to God. That is all. In seven days you will have met Him on the page seven times.

1 JOHN 1

The Word was made flesh. He stepped into the world He made — to reach you.

2 JOHN 2

The first sign, at a wedding. He begins with ordinary things and makes them new.

3 JOHN 3

“Ye must be born again.” Read verse 16 as if it were written to you alone.

4 JOHN 4

A woman with a past and a well that never runs dry. No one is too far gone.

5 JOHN 5

A man who had given up. Jesus asks him, “Wilt thou be made whole?”

6 JOHN 6

The bread of life. Come hungry, and come to Him.

7 JOHN 7

Rivers of living water. Rest a while, and thank Him for the week.

Missed a day? Do not start over and do not give up. Read the next chapter. Following Jesus is a walk, not a streak.

When You Stumble

You will have a bad day. You will lose your temper, fall back into something old, or wake up feeling nothing at all. When that happens, remember three things.

It does not undo you. You were not saved by how well you were doing, and you will not be lost by how badly you failed. Christ finished the work; you did not start it and you cannot end it.

Do not hide. The instinct after a fall is to stay away — from God, from church, from the people who would ask you about it. That instinct is the oldest lie there is. Come back quickly. Confess plainly. He is faithful and just to forgive.

Get up and keep walking. Repentance is not a mood of shame; it is a change of direction. Say sorry, receive the mercy, and take the next step.

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

KEEP GOING

You Have Begun

You do not have to have it all worked out. Nobody does. You have turned toward Christ, and He has received you — and from here, the whole rest of your life is learning to walk with Him.

Read the Word. Pray in your own words. Stay with His people. Tell the truth when you fall. And when you feel nothing, believe the promise instead of the feeling.

Grace be with you.

I GAVE MY LIFE TO CHRIST ON

Write it down. You will want to remember the day.

WHEN YOU ARE READY FOR THE NEXT STEP

Rooted in Christ: The Next Step is a free guide that takes you further — seven days through Colossians, then the habits that hold a new life together: the Word, prayer, church, obedience and witness.

Free at graceforarenewedmind.com

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BEGIN WITH CHRIST