

"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation...for whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

- Romans 10:9,10 & 13

Becoming a Christian is not hard but it is an awesome process. We move from being "dead" in our sins and separation from God, through the experience of being "born-again" (John 3:3), to beginning a new life as His child (John 1:12). Like the drowning man who cries out for help, we humbly appeal to the Lord to save us from our sins. As we are calling upon the Lord, we "confess", which means that we agree with God's plan of salvation (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). By faith, our hearts embrace the truth that God sent His Son to die for our sins, was buried, and supernaturally arose from the dead. We need to believe that Jesus is God because only God could pay the penalty for the sins of all mankind.

Taking the necessary "leap of faith" sometimes hinders individuals from wholehearted belief. They want to first "understand" everything. The problem is that the "natural" mind cannot understand the things of God (1 Corinthians 2:14). To understand the things of God we must first welcome Him into our hearts and minds by calling out to Him in faith. Don't worry about having enough faith because God will supply what we need in order to be saved (Romans 5:8). Trust God, not your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5).

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

- Romans 12:2

Once we have believed on the Lord the transformation begins. God begins a major remodeling project on our minds and hearts. Everything about our former way of thinking, conversation, and behavior will begin to change replaced with a brand, new, godly way (2 Corinthians 5:17). We will desire to live a life of "repentance" or consistently turning away from the worldly culture around us and turning toward God as our source of life.



The proof of our salvation comes from the peace of God that floods our forgiven souls, the love of God that embraces our hearts and the purpose of God that gives our lives new meaning. We feel compelled to tell others about the astonishing thing that has happened to us. We discover a love and care for others that we have not known. We grow to understand how all the pieces of our life fit together in God's Master Plan.

If you have called out to God for salvation today, write me and tell me about your experience. I'd love to hear from you!

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Becoming a Christian:

***"A Journey through
The Book of Romans"***

By Pastor Curt Carter

Becoming a Christian

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and God-head, so that they are without excuse,"

- Romans 1:20

Our journey to discover what it means to become a Christian needs to start in the very beginning with creation. When we look at the immensity of the universe or consider the complexity of DNA information stored in every cell of the human body, we come face to face with the existence of God. The Bible tells us that *"God created man in His own image"* (Genesis 1:27). We, like Him, have intelligence, creativity, determination, and emotions. We are at once so like Him and yet so separated from Him.

"Who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them."

- Romans 2:15

Each of us carries a form of "moral" law in our hearts - our personal list of "wrongs" that we would never do. Almost everyone claims to know the difference between right and wrong.



"Eye of God" Constellation
Taken by the Hubble Telescope

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

- Romans 5:8

God knew from the beginning that human beings would be overcome with sinfulness, so He also designed a way for us to be rescued from sin and restored to a relationship with Him. He demonstrated His love for mankind by sending His Son to pay the penalty for all sins (1 John 2:2). Every vicious, wicked, self-centered act ever committed by man was paid for by Christ's death on the cross.



"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- Romans 6:23

To live in sin, is to live in separation from our Creator God. And to live without fellowship with God, is to experience a kind of walking "death" - our **spirits** (the place within us designed to commune with God) lie dormant and empty, our **minds** cannot grasp the greater purpose from which we were designed and our **emotions** never know the indescribable joy of salvation and victory over sin! But even as we were "dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1) God offers us the amazing gift of life - forgiveness of all sins (Colossians 2:13), becoming one in union with God (1 Corinthians 6:17), and the granting of eternal life (beginning now and continuing even after physical death in heaven) so we're always united to Him (John 3:16).

The problem is that everyone's list is different, custom tailored to their own personal desires. We all want to use our wills to do "that which is right in [our] own eyes" (Judges 17:6). And that leads to feelings of guilt and shame as our consciences accuse us of what we may be actually doing wrong or elaborate plans to justify our actions and excuse ourselves from the consequences of our choices.

"As it is written: there is none righteous, no, not one; there is none that understands, there is none who seeks after God...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

- Romans 3: 10, 11, & 23

It certainly isn't hard to see that there is something very wrong with the world in which we live. Violence, hatred, jealousy, murder, racism, abusive language of all kinds happen around us every day. As hard as we might try to "be good", we will find ourselves thinking, saying or doing hurtful things to other human beings. The Bible calls that "sin" and it means that no matter how hard we try we will continue to fall short again and again. Without a relationship with God **no one** is able to get victory over their sinful tendencies and because of our sinfulness we do not go to God for help.

The good news is that God has come for us. If you are reading this pamphlet, genuinely looking for help, it is because God is already beginning to draw you to Himself (John 6:44). God's Son, Jesus Christ, came to earth to find us (Luke 19:10) and to give us victory over our sinfulness.