

HOW CAN I BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

Hello!

If you're reading this you have probably come to a point where you are looking for some deeper meaning to your life, some hope in more than your own resources, and some certainty and confidence in truths that have stood the test of time.

Or maybe you're just curious about God, Jesus and Christianity in general.

Perhaps, you know a Christian or two, whose faith seems to make a difference, and you wonder what makes them tick.

Well, whatever your reasons for being here, you've come to the right place.

Welcome!

We hope we can help you along in your faith-journey. Below is a simple three-step guide to becoming a Christian: a believer, a follower and lover of Jesus.

We suggest that, first, you read the guide through. Then, if you think you might be ready to become a Christian, read it through again... and as you do make it personal and pray the prayer that's included in step 3. If you do this, and mean it, by the end you'll have become a Christian. Get in touch and let us know.

If, when you've read the guide, you're not quite ready to take this step of faith and belief, then look below where you will find some useful links to help you find out more. Then, when you're ready come back to the three-step guide and follow it through. If you still have questions, please do get in touch. We'll be happy to help you.

How to become a Christian: a three-step guide.

Becoming a Christian is simple... and it's kind of complex, too!

However, we're going to offer you the simple version... on the basis that you can enjoy and benefit from driving a car without having to understand the complexities of its engine and all its other bits.

Nevertheless, it's important that everything we believe has the authority of the Bible. So, this guide is referenced with Bible passages: feel free to use the list at the end to check this out for yourself. There's lots more complex stuff, that can be fascinating to learn and can really enrich your faith at a later stage... for the rest of your life, in fact!

For now, though, let's keep it as simple as A, B, C.

A₁ dmit

B₂ elieve

C₃ ommit

Step 1: **A**₁dmmit

First, there's some things you should admit... or acknowledge and accept.

Let's start with the fact that God loves you.¹ Have you ever admitted this to yourself before? Go on, say it to yourself... 'God loves me!' What an amazing thing to be able to say. You might wonder whether you even believe in God, but that really makes no difference... God still loves you.² You can't stop Him loving you, even by not believing in Him! His love is unconditional and completely undeserved.³

That brings us to the next thing you need to admit. You will never deserve God's love and favour. Go on, try saying that: 'God loves me, and I don't deserve it.'

We all have to admit that we have done, said and thought plenty of wrong things... things that displease and dishonour God. We have all been, and still are, selfish and self-centred a lot of the time. The Bible calls all this wrongdoing 'sin' which is an old word used in archery when an arrow falls short of the target. You must acknowledge, as we all must, that you fall short of God's standards.⁴

So, the final thing to admit and accept is that you can't earn your way to eternal life, however hard you try. This might seem like bad news, but it's actually the 'good news' that Christians so often talk about. It sounds almost too good to be true – you don't have to try to become a Christian – it's a gift from God.⁵

That's right, becoming a Christian is not about trying really hard to be a better person and somehow earning your own salvation and a place in Heaven. It might be a bit humbling, but you just have to accept that you can't do it by yourself. Then confess and say 'sorry' to God for your selfishness and wrongdoing and admit that you need God's forgiveness.⁶

Step 2: **B**₂elieve

So, now we go from admitting things about ourselves to believing some things about God. Believing requires faith and trust. You can explore the evidence and arguments for these things, but in the end you will also need some faith.

Remember, that in step 1 you needed to admit that you can't sort out your eternal salvation and well-being by yourself. The good news is that God has provided a rescue-plan through his Son, Jesus Christ.⁷

To become a Christian and receive God's salvation and eternal life, you will need to put your faith and trust in some vital truths. We'll keep it as simple as we can.

Read on, with an open mind and heart, and ask God to silence any cynicism that might want to have its say. Try to be open to God. If you do this God's invisible Holy Spirit can speak to you and help you to believe. If you come humbly and honestly to God, he won't turn you away.⁸

First, you need to believe that God is holy and perfect, and his standard of perfection must be met in order for our souls to go to Heaven when we die. God cannot allow sin and selfishness into Heaven. If he wasn't totally holy and perfect, he wouldn't be much of a God.⁹

Secondly, we must believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and that in Him the perfection of God lived in human form when he came to this earth. So, Jesus was and is holy and perfect, too. Now, Jesus is seated in authority at the Father's side in Heaven.¹⁰

Next, we must believe that Jesus died on the cross and when he did he took the penalty of death that our wrongdoing and selfishness deserved. Because he was perfect, he didn't have to die for any sins of his own – so he was able to die in our place, if we believe.¹¹

Finally, you need to believe that Jesus, the Son of God, rose from the tomb. By doing this he defeated the power of death, so that when we have faith in him we can have eternal life in Heaven.¹²

Just take a moment to think and pray over these matters of faith and trust now. Ask God to open your mind and heart to believe. Here's a useful old prayer that many have used: "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"¹³

If you want to explore any of these important truths further, there are some links below... but for now, read on and discover the final step of the journey to becoming a Christian.

Step 3: **C**ommit

As in most areas of life, we don't discover the true benefit or pleasure of something until we commit to it. This is true of pastimes like exercise and fitness, of skills like playing an instrument or learning to dance, and of the important things in life like friendship and family... and it's true of faith, too. You will only really feel the benefits of faith in God when you commit yourself to believing and trusting in Him.

So, how can you commit yourself and your life to God?

Simply by praying a prayer of commitment to God – and meaning it, of course!

Don't worry, if prayer is an unusual experience for you. God knows and understands, and he will love just to hear you speaking to him. You can pray in silence, but saying it aloud might help you to feel that it's like a normal conversation – which it is.

God won't turn away anyone who comes sincerely to Him.¹⁴ He will be listening to your prayer and will take you at your word. If you pray the prayer of commitment, below, and mean what you say, then you will have become a Christian by the end of it. It's so simple and it has three stages similar to this guide: *thank you*, *sorry* and *please*.

So, if you're ready...

Dear God,

Thank you that you love me. Thank you that, though you are a holy and perfect God, you love me unconditionally. Thank you that you love me enough to have sent your Son, Jesus, to live and die and rise again for me. Thank you that you are hearing this prayer right now.

I'm sorry for my sin. I'm sorry for all the self-centredness and wrongdoing in my life. I acknowledge that I don't deserve your love and I fall short of your standards. I want to stop going my own way, and start living my life your way.

Please forgive me of my sin, through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Please give me a new life, an eternal life, through the resurrection of Jesus from death. Please send your Holy Spirit to live in me so that I can live the rest of my life with faith and trust in you. Please assure me that I have a place in heaven with you when my life on earth ends.

In the name of Jesus, my Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

So, what next?

Well, if you prayed that prayer and meant it, you are now a Christian: a believer in, and follower of Jesus Christ. Your sins have been forgiven, and you have eternal life.¹⁵

Congratulations and welcome to God's family of believers.

You might not feel much different straight away, and you may not have seen angels or bright lights! That's not the point really. The point is that an inward change has taken place – spiritually you have been made new in the name of Jesus and God's Holy Spirit lives in your soul.¹⁶

It's important that you tell others about your decision to follow Jesus, especially other Christians who will be able to help and support you. There are so many new and exciting things to find out about your new faith. A local church of faithful followers of Jesus is the best place to start. We'd love you to contact us and introduce yourself. If you don't live nearby we can help you to find a local church near where you live: <https://www.whefc.org/contact-us>

If you didn't feel ready to pray the prayer of commitment right now, don't give up or lose heart. It takes some people longer to come to faith in Jesus.

There's a few things you can do that will help:

- Go back to the top, re-read this guide and pray for the faith to trust and believe.
- Use the links below to learn more about becoming a Christian.
- Spend some time looking into the Bible references listed below to gain a fuller understanding.
- Contact us to ask your questions, raise your concerns, and begin a discussion about what it means to be a Christian. We'd love to hear from you: <https://www.whefc.org/contact-us>

Find out more:

GotQuestions.org <https://www.gotquestions.org/become-a-Christian.html>

AllAboutGod.com <https://www.allaboutgod.com/how-to-become-a-christian.htm>

BibleInfo.com <https://www.bibleinfo.com/en/questions/how-become-christian>

Bible references:



If you'd like to, please look up these references in a Bible:

- the first part is the book of the Bible: e.g. 1John or Romans;
- the first number is the chapter;
- the second number(s) gives the verse, or verses.

The version quoted is the New International Version (NIV) which is a reliable and readable modern translation. It might help you to use this link to access the Bible online:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/New-International-Version-UK-NIVUK-Bible/#booklist>

1. **1John 3: 1.** See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!
2. **1John 4: 9-10.** This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.
3. **1John 4: 19.** We love because he first loved us.
4. **Romans 3: 23.** For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...
5. **Romans 6: 23.** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Ephesians 2: 8-9. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.
6. **1John 1: 9.** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.
7. **John 3: 16-17.** 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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.
8. **John 6: 37-40.** Jesus declared, '...All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.'
9. **1Samuel 2: 2-3.** There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the Lord is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed.
10. **Hebrews 1: 3.** The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.
11. **Romans 5: 6-8.** You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
12. **Matthew 11: 25-26.** Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.'
13. **Mark 9: 24.** "Lord, I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"
14. **John 6: 37.** "Whoever comes to me I will never drive away."
15. **Romans 10: 8-13.** ...if you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe... and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, 'Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame', for 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'
16. **Romans 8: 11.** And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.