

**Your  
Invitation  
To  
Follow  
Jesus**



**Jesus  
The Way  
The Truth  
The Life**



**(St John Chapter 14 verse 6)**

Bible verses are from the New Living Translation, (NLT)  
words in (*italics*) are mine.

Christianity will help you if:-

- ? 1) You are, instinctively, searching for God to give meaning to life.
- ? 2) Seeking to express and find meaning to your spirituality.
- ? 3) Not sure there is a God.
- ? 4) You don't think you are good enough for God to bother about you.
- ? 5) You have doubts and uncertainties about God, Jesus, and The Holy Spirit.

It is OK to have doubts and uncertainties about these things.

Its OK to ask questions and to want to know the answers, but no one knows all of the answers before committing themselves to follow Jesus. After all who knows all of the answers before committing themselves to any relationship!

You will find help by:-

- H** a. reading relevant parts of the Bible to see what it has to say.
- b. being totally honest, talking to God and explaining how you feel.
- E** c. talking to Christians who are making their journey through life with Jesus.
- d. attending an 'Alpha course', 'Emmaus Road' or similar short course to find out more about the Christian way of life.
- L** e. attending church – preferably with friends who will help you settle in.
- P** f. reading useful/helpful/relevant books.  
(Book list at the end of the article)

## THE WORST THING IS TO 'IGNORE' GOD AND GO THROUGH LIFE AS THOUGH HE DOES NOT EXIST

The Bible tells us, 'God is love'

1 John 4:16 <sup>16</sup>We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in him. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

**He cares deeply for each one of us no matter how we feel or what we may have thought, said, or done.**

God is forgiving and says, If we repent and really want to change our ways .....

- R** a) going our own way rather than  
**E** with God.  
**P** b) putting self first, before others,  
**E** in thoughts, words and actions.  
**N** c) things we should have said/done,  
**T** that we have not, leaving others the poorer for it.

The word  
REPENT  
means  
a change of  
heart,  
mind  
and  
action.

..... and turn to God he will understand, and forgive us and come to live with, and in, us by his Holy Spirit to strengthen and enable us to live, as he would have us live, in a moral and upright way.

1 John 1:9 But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.

(The word sin means disbelief in God, failing him and our neighbour which may include sins of omission as well as commission)

John 14 :16-17 And I (Jesus) will ask the Father, (God) and he will give you another Counselor, who will never leave you. <sup>17</sup> He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world at large cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you do, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

**Luke 11:13** If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father (God) give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”

This will mean being open to changes in our lifestyle – no one ever promised that the Christian life would be easy – on the contrary – commitment to anything brings it’s own discipline which may lead to hard decisions having to be made including changes in our habits.



The Bible also tells us, ‘God is light and in him is no darkness at all’

**1 John 1:5** This is the message he has given us to announce to you: God is light and there is no darkness in him at all.

When we do all we can to seek him (a-f, Page 1) and draw close to him, our darkness (wrong thoughts, speech, deeds and failure) are bathed away enabling us to live in his light.

We can be sure about these things through faith in Jesus Christ who shows us (DEMONSTRATES) and tells us what God is like.

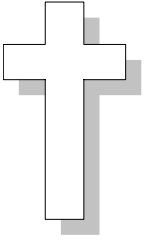
The followers of Jesus asked him to show them what God is like?

**John 14:9-10** Jesus replied, “Philip, don’t you even yet know who I am, even after all the time I have been with you? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father (God) ! So why are you asking to see him? <sup>10</sup> Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me.

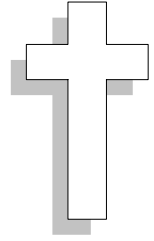
As we read about Jesus, taking notice of what he does and says, we see God in action.

Jesus, in effect, is a window for us to see and understand what God is like.





Jesus willingly died on the cross at the hands of sinful people to show just how much God loves us so that sin, which is a barrier/gulf between us and God who is Holy, is removed, taken away.



**Romans 5:6-8** When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. <sup>7</sup>Now, no one is likely to die for a good person, though someone might be willing to die for a person who is especially good. <sup>8</sup> But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

**John 14:6** Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father (God) except through me.

Through what Jesus did we are set free from guilt, and the things that tie us down and hold us back, to be released into new life with Jesus, (This is often called ‘Conversion’ or ‘Being born again’, spiritually)

**1 Peter 1:3-4** All honor to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for it is by his boundless mercy that God has given us the privilege of being born again. Now we live with a wonderful expectation because Jesus Christ rose again from the dead. <sup>4</sup> For God has reserved a priceless inheritance for his children. It is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.

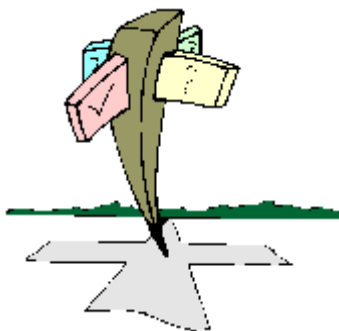
This is described in the Bible as ‘Eternal Life’ which begins as we accept Jesus and continues beyond the grave when we shall spend eternity with God – Something to celebrate and look forward to.

**Rejoice!**

No matter how we view life we all have to answer the challenge of Jesus.

- 1) You can't live through the faith of your parents – Jesus challenges you to make your own decision to follow him.
- 2) You can't live simply by following tradition – Jesus challenges you to value the tradition of the church but also to make up your mind to follow him personally.
- 3) You can't sit on the fence, searching and asking questions but not making up your mind until all your questions and doubts are answered. Jesus challenges you to make the decision to follow him now – the questions will be answered as you journey with him through life.
- 4) Many people find faith as they face difficult situations in life, such as the loss of a loved one or divorce etc. and feel the need to search for something beyond their own strength to comfort and help cope with life.
- 5) Some people say, 'I don't believe there is a God' but then go on to find a sudden conviction/impulse later to come to him and find that relationship made complete in Jesus.
- 6) No matter who we are or what we have said or done God loves us and always wants the best for our lives. He does care and makes it possible for each of us to have a personal relationship with him as we choose to accept and follow Jesus as our leader.

For whatever reason it is vital for each one of us, at some stage in our faith journey, to choose to accept Jesus and follow him for ourselves.



There are many ways in which people reach that point of decision some of which arise out of 1 – 6 above. Christians call this a 'Conversion Experience' or being 'Born Again' **spiritually**, when in our hearts we know God is for real.

Basically it happens in one of two ways.

- 1) Gradually over a period of time until you are convinced that accepting and following Jesus is the way forward for you.
- 2) Suddenly, for a variety of reasons, as you are confronted by the claim of Jesus upon your life, such that you respond to him immediately and find the inner conviction to trust God by choosing to follow Jesus.

Becoming a Christian is not an easy option to make life a 'bed of roses' (which, by the way have thorns!)

As with any relationship there will be difficulties to overcome, changed attitudes and behaviour to take on board, but the resulting deep peace and the changed heart of knowing God and his purposes makes it all worthwhile.

God never forces himself upon us – He created us with 'free will' – he is always open to receive us, but it is our responsibility to seek, to ask, to come, and make the choice to accept all that he promises for us, as we follow him in our lives.



Romans chapter 8 verse, 28a reads, And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God

A more accurate translation from the Greek reads, "In everything that happens, God works for good with those who love him."

**A Christian is someone who has responded to the call of God and decided to personally accept and follow Jesus and, just as in any relationship, puts into place all those things that will keep the relationship alive.**

**So it really is your choice!**

Ignoring Jesus is a negative response and truthfully is a no vote!

Sitting on the fence is a negative response and is also a no vote!

Trying to live through the faith of someone else or out of church tradition is also a negative response since there is no substitute for the real thing!

The really positive response is to move forward and say yes to Jesus for yourself – you will be surprised at the release, of love, joy and peace you experience inwardly as you continue to live through life with him.

**love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.**

(Fruits of the Holy Spirit - Galatians 5:22)

## **THINGS TO UNDERSTAND BEFORE MAKING A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT**

**If, after considering your situation, you would like to become a Christian and begin your relationship with God, then use the following advice and OUTLINE PRAYER to make your commitment to Him.**

There are four simple elements to the prayer, which are listed, so that you know what you are committing yourself to.

- 1) THANKING God for his love. (Praise and Adoration)
- 2) Saying SORRY for the wrong things you have thought, said and done. (Confession)
- 3) Receiving his FORGIVENESS by faith through Jesus Christ and his death on the cross.
- 4) ASKING God to come to be your companion in life.

Use the prayer below, or a prayer of your own which contains the four elements above, to respond to, and make your commitment to God in Jesus Christ.

It is good to find a quiet place and say the prayer out loud.

Many people also find it helpful to say the prayer with a trusted Christian friend or in church at an appropriate time.



### PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Thank you God that you accept me and love me totally and I understand you want to be involved in my life.

Lord Jesus Christ I am sorry for the things I have thought, said, and done, which are wrong, not least in closing you out from my life.

*Be quiet for a few moments asking God to bring to mind any specific things which need forgiving.*

*Tell him how you feel and name anything that is on your conscience at this time.*

Please forgive me as I have decided to turn away from the wrong things in my life and turn to you, trusting in you for my future.

Thank you that you died on the cross and rose again in resurrection power, so defeating all that sin and death tried to do.

I trust your promise to forgive me and make me free and whole to begin/continue the rest of my life with you.

Please come to me, by your Holy Spirit, to be my companion in life.

**Amen.** (So be it)

# WELCOME

Now that you have made your commitment to Jesus Christ there are four things you need to do in order to maintain your relationship with him to be encouraged to grow in your faith.

- 1) Tell someone that you have become a Christian and have decided to follow Jesus. (A Christian friend— A Christian Minister— The person who helped you)
- 2) Begin to read the Bible (Preferably in a modern translation) using daily notes, available from Christian book shops or on-line, to help you understand what it is saying to you.
- 3) Join a lively church where you will be able to worship God in the company of other Christians, hear what he is saying, and begin make friends with those who attend.
- 4) Talk to God regularly in your prayers – Many people use the following 'ACTS' format to help focus their thoughts in a structured way.

A = Adoration - Praising God for who he is, what he has done, and continues to do.

C = Confession - Asking God to continue to forgive anything you have thought, said, or done wrong against him or others.

T = Thanksgiving - For God's forgiveness, and presence with you. For health, family, friends and other benefits of this life.

S = Supplication - Praying for the needs of family, friends, other people, community, church, the world and your own needs.



## **BOOK LIST**



Why Jesus – Nicky Gumble Kingsway ISBN 0 86065096606

Journey into life – Norman Warren Kingsway  
ISBN 0 86065 981 X

Following Jesus (Especially for children) Scripture Union  
ISBN 0 86201 932 X

### **BIBLE READING NOTES**

Everyday With Jesus for New Christians. Order from any Christian Bookshop or via <http://www.everydaywithjesus.com/>

**Obtainable through any Christian bookshop**

**If you are local visit the “Oasis Christian Bookshop”  
Sheep Street (Opposite Library)  
Kettering**

**or on line via** <http://www.standrewsbookshop.co.uk/>

### **YOUR OWN NOTES**

Date when you made your commitment/recommitment to Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

Place \_\_\_\_\_

