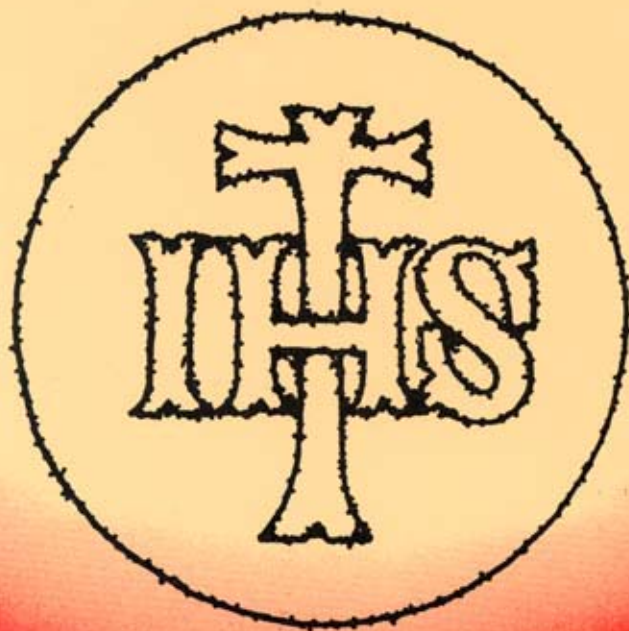


CHRISTIANITY IS CHRIST



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As you have yielded your confidence in faith to Jesus Christ so you have become one with Him. The step that you have taken is the greatest one of your life. You will discover that with Christ life can never be the same. You will begin to see things from a new perspective, for Christ changes our direction of living, not only in this life, but also for eternity.

We thank God that He has enabled you to believe in Christ as your personal Saviour and that you want Him to be the Head of your life. Be assured that people are praying for you, and that there is joy in heaven because of what happened to you.

When we become Christians it is important that we grow and mature in our relationship with Christ. You have just been introduced to Him, Christ is yours, and one of the richest experiences of being a Christian is coming to know Him in a deeper and closer way. The following points are not rules or laws, but suggestions to help you succeed as a Christian.

Accept your Salvation Joyfully

First accept your salvation joyfully. This is your great day. Christ has found you. You are no longer wandering or lost or guilty in the sight of God.

Because of God's utterly undeserved love for you, Christ has borne in His blameless person all your sins on the Cross of Calvary. As you became one with Him by faith, so His death became your death and His life your new life. 'There is now therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus'. Romans 8:1.

Rejoice then in what God has done for you, this is a free gift. 'For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God'. Ephesians 2:8

Live By Faith in Christ

Second, as you have trusted Christ to become a Christian, so trust Him to live the life. Having begun in faith, don't try and complete it by doing it, or keeping it yourself. Jesus assures us: 'No-one shall snatch them out of my hand'. John 10:28. You believed that Christ could save you, believe that He can keep you. Walk by faith and let the Spirit of Christ direct and control your life. The Holy Spirit will give you power to conquer temptation, beat sin, and witness for Christ. Pray for this power.

Read the Bible Diligently

Third, the new Christian, like a new baby, needs food and our food is the Word of God. Feed on this Word by reading the Bible diligently. 'Like newborn babies, long for the pure spiritual milk, that you may grow up to salvation; for you have tasted the kindness of the Lord'. I Peter 2:2,3.

Read the Bible carefully and prayerfully. As you do so you will find that God speaks to you in His word. You will receive assurance and encouragement, guidance and correction, strength and discernment. If you have not read the Bible before, begin today with John's Gospel. Read a chapter a day, and read expectantly. (Inquire from your minister about receiving regular Bible reading notes.)

Pray Earnestly

Fourth, pray earnestly. Christianity is a personal relationship with Christ and all genuine friendships involve conversation. As you read the Bible so God speaks to you. But we need to respond to God's talking to us through prayer. Prayer is simply talking to God as you would talk to another person. Share with God your thankfulness, your sorrow for sin, your admiration of His love and power, your personal needs and the needs of others.

Begin to pray today for a friend who does not know Christ. You can pray as you work, or walk, or relax, but fix a regular time each day to spend alone with God. Jesus said: 'If you ask anything in my name I will do it.' John 14:14. You cannot afford to be too busy to pray. A prayerless Christian is a powerless Christian. Prayer cheers the heart and attunes the mind.

Worship Regularly

Fifth, worship regularly. The Bible knows no such thing as a solitary Christian. Christians in the New Testament always met together for worship and fellowship. 'And they devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers.' Acts 2:42.

We need the encouragement and fellowship of others who are Christ's. We need to join in corporate prayer. We need the challenge and the building up of God's Word preached. On the other hand, God deserves our corporate praise. We also have a responsibility to share the Gospel with others. The Church is the body of Christ, whose purpose is to do all it can to bring Christ to the world. Every Christian is a witness

for Christ, whether good or bad. It is in the fellowship of the church that we can be equipped for this task for life.

Don't hesitate to tell someone today what Christ has done for you. This great honour that you now have--the world needs to know. It is easy to be part of this world's problem, but now, through the Lord Jesus, you are part of the answer.

Remember that being a Christian does not mean that you are insensitive to sin or a perfect person. *We* grow as we acknowledge our failures and continually cast ourselves back on Jesus Christ. 'If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.' 1 John 1:9.

Now then, go forward. Appropriate all the blessings God has given to you in Christ Jesus your Saviour and Lord; and be filled with the Spirit's dynamic.

The Assurance of God's Word

The Bible claims to be the Word of God. In a world of flux and change the Word of God remains sure. As our ideas modify or alter, the Word of God is eternally true.

The following verses of Scripture are chosen to help you think through what becoming a Christian means and to give you a solid basis for assurance, in the vacant spaces in your own words and return it to the person who counselled you, or to your minister.

John 10:10 means John's Gospel, chapter ten and verse ten.

1. What is it that God wants you to have and experience? John 10:10

2. What is eternal life? John 17:3
- (a) Becoming a church member;
 - (b) Keeping the Ten Commandments;
 - (c) Knowing God and Jesus personally;
 - (d) Being like Jesus.

3. Why aren't people enjoying the life that God intends for them? John 5:40

4. What are the consequences of rejecting Jesus? John 8:24

The Bible teaches that sin brings its penalty: 'For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.' Romans 6:23. From the beginning man has been sinful and alienated from God. However, God in His utterly undeserved love provided a way by which sinful man can be forgiven, restored to fellowship with Himself, and given new life.

5. For what purpose did Jesus come? John 3:16

6. What must we do if we are to experience this salvation? Mark 1:15

7. What has Jesus done with your sins? John 1:29

8. Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd, and us the sheep. What has Jesus done for you? John 10:11

9. How did Jesus take away your sins? John 19:17-42

10. If you have believed in Jesus, and trust Him, what has happened to you? John 5:24

11. If you have personally received Christ into your life, what have you become? John 1:12

12. What provision has Jesus given for living a new life in Him now? John 14:12-14

13. How does the Holy Spirit help you to grow in Christ? John 14:26

14. In a few words, state how you know that you are now a child of God.