

The Christian Salvation Bridge

This illustration shows how a person becomes a Christian (is saved) and what happens next.

PEOPLE WITHOUT JESUS (Not yet saved)

People who do not know Jesus as Savior are spiritually separated from God because of sin. They cannot reach God on their own.

Sin's Reality

All have sinned and fall short of God's glory.

Romans 3:23

Sin's Penalty

The wage of sin is death (separation from God).

Romans 6:23

Sin's Result

Apart from God we face judgment and eternity without Him.

Hebrews 9:27

JESUS CHRIST

Bridges the gap between us and God by doing what we couldn't do ourselves.



JESUS CHRIST

Jesus died for us.

Romans 5:8

He forgives our sins.

Ephesians 1:7

He did what we couldn't do.

Ephesians 2:8-9

PEOPLE WITH JESUS (Saved)

When a person repents of their sin and in prayer asks Jesus to be their Savior, they are forgiven and given eternal life.

Required Response

Repent and believe in Jesus.

Acts 20:21

Forgiven and Made Right with God

Your sins are forgiven.

Ephesians 1:7

Assurance of Salvation

You can know you have eternal life with God.

1 John 5:11-13

What to Do Next

(If You Have Become a Christian)

After you have put your faith in Jesus and are saved, there are two important things to do:



1. Live like a saved person.

Let your new life with Jesus be shown in the way you think, speak, and act.

Philippians 1:27



2. Learn how to do that in the Bible.

Read and study God's Word to learn how to live for Jesus and grow in your faith.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

If you would like Jesus to become the Forgiver and Leader of your life, if you would like Him to be your Savior and know you are saved from the penalty of your sins, you can ask Him to do that.

I'll explain how to do that in more detail in a minute, but before you do that, you need to carefully consider what you are doing. Becoming a Christian is not merely a fire-insurance policy to escape the possibility of hell and then where you go on living your life any way you want. When you ask Jesus to forgive your sins, you are doing business with the Creator of the universe. It is not a step to be taken lightly. The Bible says that He gave His life for you, and if you want His salvation, you must give your life back to Him.

The Bible talks about becoming Jesus' disciple and the definition of a disciple is someone who wants to become like their master. There are other lessons on Bible805.com (and in the Bible overall) that explain what it means to be a disciple, you may want to look at some of them first.

Becoming Jesus' disciple means you are no longer in charge.

That is what it means to truly repent of your sins (remember sin is going your own way). Now you are committed to going God's way and you'll learn more and more what that means as you go along.

As a Christian, God is now in control of your life, not you. Most of all you need to read your Bible to discover what God wants you to do and that includes going to church, praying, and being with other Christians. You are now part of the family of God and you have family responsibilities. You will learn them gradually, but you must be willing to do that. But you also have incredible joy, peace, freedom from sin, and a promised forever with Jesus.

When you become a follower, a disciple of Jesus

Your life will not suddenly become easy, wealthy, and trouble-free. The TV preachers or religious authors who promise this are not telling the truth.

The Bible (which is the only source of truth) tells us that Jesus promised, *"In this world, you will have troubles," but he also said, "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world!"*

Life is seldom easy as a Christian, but as a Christian, you are now assured that your troubles have a purpose, someday they will be over, and you are assured of heaven where there will be "no more pain, tears, or death."

If you are ready to commit your life to Jesus, either out loud, or in your heart, you can pray:

Dear Jesus,

I confess that I am a sinner and that I have chosen to live my life apart from you, to do what I wanted above all else. I don't want to do that anymore. I believe that Jesus was God and that He came to earth, died on a cross, and rose from the dead to pay the penalty for my sin, my going my own way. I am now committing my life to you and asking you to be my Forgiver and Leader. Help me to learn to pray, to read my Bible, to find a good church, and to follow through on my commitment to you by publicly acknowledging my decision in baptism. Thank you for loving me and coming into my life. Amen.

If you have prayed that prayer—You are saved! Welcome to the family of God!