

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

Why do I need salvation?

We need to be saved because we are totally lost in sin. It's not that we need to save ourselves, because we can't. The Bible teaches that the whole human race is corrupted meaning every aspect of our being has been stained by sin. There are many verses in Scripture that point to this, but let's just look at one: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one" (Romans 3:10–12).

What is the Gospel?

The word Gospel literally means "good news" and occurs 93 times in the Bible, exclusively in the New Testament. Why is it good news? Well, the Bible paints a pretty dark future for humanity if we don't have God. Because we are all sinful, we are separated from God. The Gospel (good news) is that God, by His own choosing, decided to make a way back to Him. He does this through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.

The Gospel is the good news that God loves the world enough to give His only Son to die for our sin (John 3:16). The Gospel is good news because our salvation and eternal life and home in Heaven is guaranteed through Christ (John 14:1–4). "He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:3–4).

How do I know I am saved?

Everyone is sinful and needs rescuing. The Bible makes that clear in Romans 3:23 when it says that all of us fall short. We cannot save ourselves. We need a Savior. In the Christianity, we believe that is Jesus. He died and rose again. To be saved, we must put our faith in Him. Romans 10:9-10 says, "because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

In other words, you do not have to earn it, but instead you have to believe it. You can be sure you are saved by making an honest confession that you need rescue and believe that he is the one to rescue you.

What is sin?

Sin is described in the Bible as breaking God's perfect standard (1 John 3:4) and rebellion against God (Deuteronomy 9:7; Joshua 1:18). The Bible makes it clear that all of us have broken God's standard and that no one can ever measure up (Romans 3:10).

What happens if I sin now?

Many times we think that once we trust Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins, all our sin problems and temptations go away. Well, that's not the case. The Bible tells us that we must die daily to our sins (Romans 6:11; Mark 8:34). This means that sin always wants to show up in our lives. So, if we sin as Christ followers, what are we to do? Should we get saved again or

baptized again? The Bible actually answers this in 1 John. John writes a letter to the church and says this, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9)." So, what are we to do if we sin as Christ followers? We ask God to forgive us. This is called repentance.

What is different about me now? Will all my problems go away?

As a new Christ follower, the Bible says that you are a new creation. It actually says that your old self is gone, and you now are completely new (2 Corinthians 5:17). This is why the Good News is good news. Many Christ followers believe that this means they will never have any problems again. However, this is not true because life's hardships and troubles still happen. The Bible makes it clear that bad things will still happen to good people. No matter what you face in life, you can be assured that God will be faithful to get you through every situation (Philippians 4:13).

How should I live now?

As a Christ follower, you are now made new. In this new life, we are to put away the old and pursue the new. The Bible actually tells us that we live for Christ. A Christian should make progress daily. We will never be perfect on this side of eternity, but we are suppose to make progress in living for him (1 John 2:6). The day-to-day life of faith is one that grows and strengthens as we seek God in His Word and through prayer. We continue to develop our faith by uniting with other Christians whose goal of Christlikeness is similar to our own.

Why is church important?

In the Bible, church was a gathering of Christ followers. The reason they would gather was to be strengthened by Christ through the reading of Scripture, prayer and fellowship (Acts 2). Today, we come to church for the same reasons.

What is baptism? Is it necessary?

The early church made it a regular practice to baptize the new believer's in the church. Baptism in the Bible for the Christ follower was used as an outward sign to the church and the world about the change that is happening in the new Christ followers life. Christian baptism is the means by which a person makes a public profession of faith in Jesus. In the waters of baptism, a person confesses their faith in Christ and believes that Jesus has cleansed them from sin. They are making a commitment to this new life as a Christ follower. While baptism is not necessary for Salvation, it is an important step in the new Christ follower's life.

Why should I read the Bible?

Simply stated, if you want to know about God, then you read the Bible. The Bible is God's revelation to man. In the Bible God, reveals who He is and how He will save us. We see God's character and how He deals with man in the Bible. We also believe that as you read the Bible, you will be strengthened in your new walk with God.

For more information about the Bible, watch our series, "The Bible for Grown Ups" here. (INSERT LINK)

What is prayer and why should I do it?

Prayer is simply talking to God. Prayer is the primary way for the believer in Jesus Christ to communicate their emotions and desires to God and to fellowship with Him. Prayer can take on many forms. It can be audible or silent, private or public, formal or informal. Some people kneel, stand, walk or write in a journal when praying. Whatever method you take with prayer, the point is to create a consistent time to talk with God. We believe that just like studying the Bible or going to church, prayer strengthens the Christ follower.

Since you may be new to prayer, see this simple acrostic to help you on your journey:

P - Start out PRAISING God for His goodness. You can thank him for your salvation, your job, your family, your friends...really you can thank Him for everything and anything. (Do this for 2 minutes)

R - Life is difficult. At times, we make mistakes and sin and need to REPENT. In prayer, you always want to take a moment to confess your sins to Him and ask Him to forgive you. (Do this for 2 minutes)

A - This stands for ASK. We are told in the Bible to boldly approach God with our "ask" and he will answer. Sometimes the answer is yes, sometimes its no, and sometimes it may be a change in your perspective. Do not be afraid to ask God to show up in your life, work and family. (Do this for 3 minutes).

Y - Now it is time to pray specifically about YOURSELF. This is where you talk to God and tell Him what your feeling, ask for help, strength and to have more opportunities to grow to be a better Christian. (Do this for 3 minutes).

It might help to turn on some Christian music, find a quiet, private place and grab a journal to write your prayers down. If you follow this acrostic method daily, you will start praying to God 10 minutes a day. As you continue on your journey, you will notice a difference in your perspective, walk with Jesus and your attitude. Prayer changes you!