

I did it!

If you prayed with true conviction and heart, you are now a follower of Jesus. This is a fact, whether or not you feel any different. You may have been led to believe that you should feel something—a warm glow, a tingle, a weight rolled off your shoulders, or some other experience. You are now a follower of Jesus, and the Bible tells us that your eternal salvation is secure!

“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.” (Romans 10:9)

Becoming a Christian does not make all your problems go away. You will still struggle against sin and challenging circumstances, but you will do so with the assurance that God continues to love you, forgive you and make you a mature Christian through your faith in Christ.

“So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.” (Romans 12:1)

“Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

“He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.” (Titus 3:5)

“Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.” (Romans 5:1)

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (Romans 3:23-24)

What now?

When you are a follower of Jesus, the Bible tells us to follow up on our commitment by growing closer to God.

- Find a local church that teaches the Bible where you can worship God.
- Be baptized as a public affirmation of your faith.
- Ask God to increase your faith and your understanding of the Bible.
- Spend time with God every day. Develop the habit of praying to Him and reading His word.
- Obey Jesus’ teachings and instructions.
- Get to know other Christians. Develop a group of Christian friends who can answer your questions and support you in your faith.
- Tell someone about your new faith in Jesus.

If you want to talk to one of the pastors at Ladner Baptist Church, we would be honoured to take your call or receive your email. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to answer your questions, anything we can pray for you about, or if we can celebrate with you on you joining God’s family!

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All bible references are from The New Living Translation.*



How can I have a relationship with God?

Are you looking for answers?

Becoming a Christian is more than going to a church, being a good person or being born into a religious family. It is a personal relationship that will last for eternity.

It is the most important decision you will ever make.

God loves us. It's true! *God loves you.* With an eternal, passionate love. He created us to have a relationship with Him; one of love, joy, and freedom from fear.

However, **we blew it** by rebelling against him and insisting on doing everything our own way. We broke off our relationship with God.

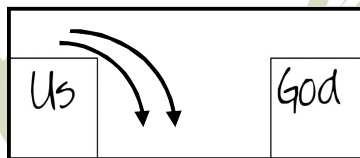
"For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard." (Romans 3:23)

"It's your sins that have cut you off from God." (Isaiah 59:2)



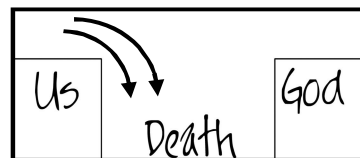
A lot of people sense this, and they try to get back to God by doing good deeds, saying prayers, or going to church. However, our efforts don't work. We can never be "good enough" to earn our way back to God.

"We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind." (Isaiah 64:6)



God loves us, but He is also fair and just. Rebellion and our sin (things we do and think that are wrong) earn us punishment. The result of our sin is spiritual death—which means separation from God for eternity. That's the predicament we are *all* in, and there's nothing we can do in our own strength to change it.

"For the wages of sin is death"
(Romans 6:23)



But there is *good news*: God did for us what we couldn't do for ourselves, by building a bridge back to Himself.

How? **Jesus Christ paid for it** by taking our punishment. This is God's free gift to us. Jesus died on a cross over 2,000 years ago and paid the spiritual death penalty that we owed. But he didn't stay dead—he rose again from the grave and is alive today. He won over death!

"But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners" (Romans 5:8)

"He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed." (1 Peter 2:24)

"Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God." (1 Peter 3:18)

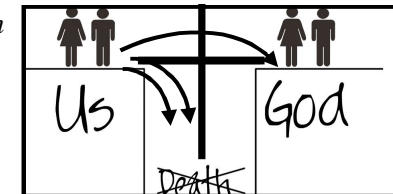
"For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."
(John 3:16)



It's not enough just to know this intellectually. We must admit we have sinned against him and **receive his forgiveness** and leadership in our lives. Once this happens, we are made spiritually alive again and able to spend eternity with God in heaven.

"We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are." (Romans 3:22)

"But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12)



Do you believe what you have read? If so, you will want to make your response to God through a prayer. Prayer is simply communicating with God using your own words. There is no special formula. Just pray from your heart to God, and believe that He has saved you.

"You must worship Christ as Lord of your life." (1 Peter 3:15)

"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it." (Ephesians 2:8-9)