

## Prayer To Receive Jesus In Your Heart and Life...

*"Heavenly Father, I acknowledge that I have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.*

*I am truly sorry for my sins.*

*I believe that You sent Jesus Christ to die for my sins.*

*I believe that on the third day Jesus Christ rose from the dead, defeating sin and death.*

*I ask You to forgive my sins.*

*I receive Jesus Christ into my heart to be the Lord of my life.*

*I surrender my life fully to Jesus Christ and commit to follow Him all the days of my life.*

*Heavenly Father, I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen"*

## What's Next?

The Bible says in Acts 2:42-47 that those who repented, believed, and were filled with the Holy Spirit,

**"...continued in the Apostles doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers."**

**They got involved in a local church** and began to grow as they joined with other believers in **studying the Bible**, gathering regularly for **fellowship**, and **prayer**. Find a local church where you can follow Jesus in **Christian Baptism**, become involved, and begin to grow in your new life in Christ! Also, read our next pamphlet entitled **"The Baptism of the Holy Spirit"**

**God Bless You!**

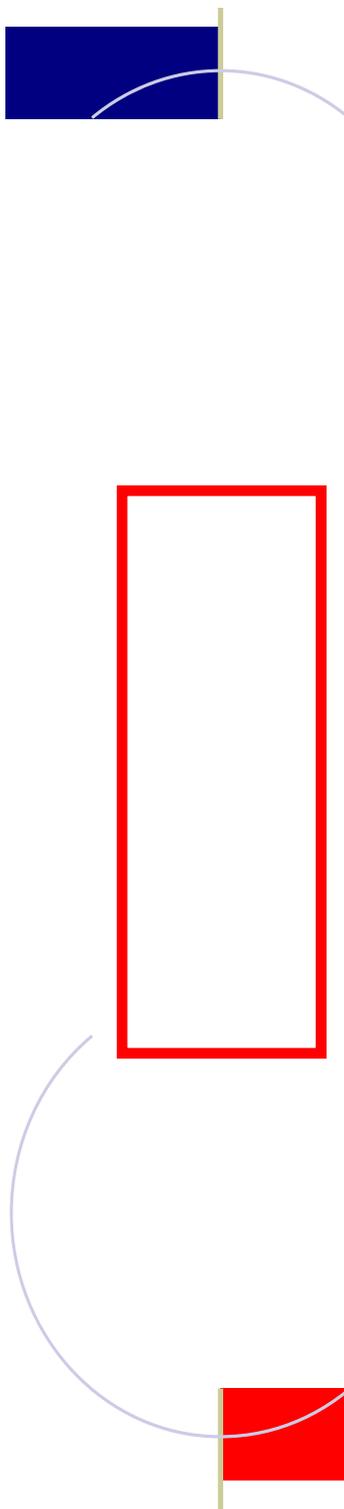
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# How To Become A Christian



## How does a person become a Christian?

This is a question that many people are asking today and also a question that seems to have many different answers. However, I am so glad that there really is a definitive guide to answering this question and that is the Bible.

Following Peter's great sermon on the Day of Pentecost, in **Acts 2:37** the Bible tells us that the people who heard this sermon were,

**"...moved in their hearts and asked, men and brethren, what shall we do (to be saved, become a Christian)?"**

Peter replied in **Acts 2:38**,

**"...Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."**

This echoed the words of Jesus found in **Mark 1:15**;

**"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent, and believe the gospel."**

From these Scriptures we can see that the two important steps in becoming a Christian are to, **1) Repent**, and, **2) Believe** (followed by baptism as an outward expression of one's personal decision - see Acts 8:12).

The result of becoming a Christian is that, **3) you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**, and, **4) you will receive eternal life** (John 6:47).

**Ok...**let's try and break it down in a practical example that I think we all can identify with.

## Red lights and sirens...

How many of you have ever been pulled over by a police officer for a traffic violation? Ok, so now I have your attention. Let's see how this experience can help us understand the steps to becoming a Christian.

## You were doing 75 in a...

Regardless of whether we are speeding 5 miles over the limit, or 50 miles over the limit, it makes no difference, we still find ourselves pulled over on the side of the road. When the police officer comes to the side of our car, we have a choice. We can deny that we broke the law, try to make up as many excuses as we can think of, **or - we can recognize our fault and admit it, both to ourselves and to the officer.**

In the same way, as we are convicted in our hearts of our sin and our need for God, we can try to make up excuses, or recognize and admit our sin and need for forgiveness. Once we do that we have completed the first step of **repentance**. What happens next?

## Your drivers license please...

The police officer says, "Driver's license and registration." In essence, the officer is asking us to **surrender our identity**. **Repentance is not complete unless** we are willing to surrender our identity, our hearts, wills, and emotions to God.

**Repentance** says, "I know I have sinned and I know that I no longer can live as lord of my life (run my own show)." **Believing** says, "I need to surrender to God and ask Jesus to be the Lord of my life." **Baptism** is the physical act that portrays this spiritual commitment of the heart in both confession and surrender (see I Peter 3:21). **Without surrender...your going to jail (you understand the parallel).**

## The long walk back...

We all sit there nervously as we see the officer walk to his car with our identity and start punching things into his computer. We think, "Perhaps he will find that unpaid parking ticket?" Or, "What type of fine will I get?" However, we need to **exercise faith** in the fact that our laws will dictate a fair judgment. When we **repent, surrender, and believe** in Jesus Christ as our Lord, we are placing our faith in the promises of the Bible and the fact that God promises to be a Just and Righteous Judge. In **I John 1:9**, the Bible clearly assures us that,

**"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."**

To stay with our traffic violation example, the officer returns to the car and informs you that **your driving record is completely clean, and a notation has been made on your record to forgive all future traffic violations — if you are truly sorry!** Wow, that would be great, but it will never happen in the real world. **YET, that is exactly what happens when we repent and believe in Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord!**

The Holy Spirit comes into our lives and gives us a **new heart, a new identity, new gifts and abilities**, and a **new freedom** to hit the road of life knowing that we are in the constant care of the Creator of the Universe. Paul writes in **I Corinthians 5:17**,

**"Behold if any man be in (believe in) Christ, he is a new creation, old things are past, BEHOLD ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW!"**

Are you ready to experience the joy of all things becoming new? Are you willing to admit your need for God and surrender your heart and life? **If so please pray the prayer on the next page.**