

How can I know Jesus Christ for myself and be sure that I really am a Christian?

1. Know and accept God knows me and loves me

Humankind is different from the rest of creation. People are made like God and can know and enjoy a relationship with Him because God knows and loves each one of us.

Genesis 1:26: 'Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us.'

Also check out Psalm 139: 1-18 in the Bible. It is a beautiful poem that reflects how God knows and loves every single person.

2. Realise there is a problem between God and me and it has eternal consequences

Although people are like God this creates a problem that needs to be solved: humans think they can manage without God and decide to do things their own way. The Bible calls this problem 'sin' and it means people naturally choose to do the wrong thing or not do the right thing. These wrong things or failures are sins.

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

Ecclesiastes 7:20: 'Not a single person on earth is always good and never sins.'

Romans 6:23: 'For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.'

Hebrews 9:27 '...a person is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.'

3. Understand God's solution to the problem and trust that it is true

The Bible calls this solution The good news or Gospel of Jesus Christ. It has 5 parts to it that Paul explains in his letters to the churches at Rome and Corinth (Romans 4:24-25, 5:6, 9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 and 2 Corinthians 5:21):

1. A loving but just God planned to rescue rebellious humankind who is helpless to solve the problem of sin
2. Jesus obeyed God by choosing to die for our sins, even though he was innocent
3. He was buried (which proved he died)
4. God resurrected Jesus to a new life on the third day
5. We are counted as guiltless and made right with God if we accept and trust this message

The solution is a gift of God and is not earned.

Ephesians 2:8-9: '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.'

4. Repent and hand control of my life over to God

Turn away from living my life my way and from everything I know is wrong and start living the way God intended.

Read Luke 15:11-24 – The parable of the wayward son:

- v 17 *'When he came to his senses' – A moment of clarity about his true situation*
- v 18 *'I will set out and go back to my father' – An intentional change of mind*
- v 20 *'So he got up and went to his father' – A turning around (the appropriate result of repentance)*

Being a truly committed and passionate follower of Jesus is not a soft option even if it is the most rewarding life you could know. Yet before embarking on this life it is important to understand what it demands of us. Ultimately it means nothing or no one is more important than Jesus in a Christian's life.

Luke 14:25-30 'Large crowds were walking along with Jesus, when he turned and said: "You cannot be my disciple, unless you love me more than you love your father and mother, your wife and children, and your brothers and sisters. You cannot come with me unless you love me more than you love your own life.'"

Acts 16:30-31: 'He led them out of the jail and asked, "Sirs, what do I have to do to be saved, to really live?" They said, "Put your entire trust in the Master Jesus. Then you'll live as you were meant to live—and everyone in your house included!"

A sincere invitation to allow Jesus into our life is all it takes.

Revelation 3:20 "'Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.'"

5. Tell others

Tell at least one other person of your commitment to Christ. Often it can make something seem more real if we say it out loud (or write it down) and one sign that we really do know Jesus is that we want to tell other people about our experience and how good it is.

Romans 1:16 'I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.'

A prayer to receive God's salvation and make a commitment to follow Jesus

Lord Jesus Christ,

I know I have sinned in my thoughts, words and actions. There are so many good things I have not done. There are so many sinful things I have done. I have been living for myself and not for you or your glory.

I am sorry for my sins and turn from everything I know to be wrong. I want to stop disobeying you and start living for you. Please forgive my sin.

I believe you died in my place on the cross and willingly shed your blood so I could be reconciled and united with God.

I believe you rose from the dead to defeat death and ascended into heaven. I believe you are coming back again to earth.

By your Holy Spirit, please come into my life, take ownership and control of it and be the centre of all I am and do. I give you my life.

Please renew me as a person. Direct me in my daily decisions and give me the strength so I can resist temptation to do wrong and turn from sin.

I receive you now as my Saviour, my Lord, and my God. I am yours forever, and I will serve you and follow you for the rest of my life.

From this moment on, I belong only to you. I no longer belong to this world, nor to the enemy of my soul, the devil. I belong to you; I am born again; I am a new creation.

Thank you for saving me.

Amen!

What do I do now?

As we draw close to Jesus, God teaches wisdom for life and encourages us. There are some simple steps we believe every believer can take to come closer to God so that the Holy Spirit (God's presence in our lives when we become a Christian) is better able to lead us.

Prayer:

Just as we want and cultivate personal relationships with other people (which, in fact, do nourish us) we can do the same with Father God. The good news is that as children of God we have access to his presence any time we need it. The Bible teaches we actually have the right to approach God and to share our intimate thoughts, desires and fears. Prayer is simply talking to our heavenly Father. We recommend trying to spend time in prayer every day.

Reading the Bible:

Just as we can not grow without eating food each day, so we should feed our inner life in order to grow in a relationship with God. We believe the Bible is the clearest way to know about God. Learning how God is revealed in the Bible is a very important part of any Christian's life. As we read God's message to us we recommend asking God how various passages apply to our life. A good place to start a first study is the Gospel of John in the New Testament. Find an easy to read, modern translation like the New Living Translation (NLT) or Contemporary English Version (CEV).

Meeting with other Christians:

When people give control of their lives to Jesus Christ, they became vital parts of God's family, the Church. As Christians get involved in a local church they should expect to give and receive encouragement by meeting with each other. One Bible author expressly recommends Christians 'should not neglect meeting together' with other believers (Hebrews 10:25).



THE WAY

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