



BECAUSE YOU RESPONDED

Congratulations, you have just made the most important decision in and for your Life! You have decided you want God in your life and that you need a relationship with Him. By deciding you need Jesus in your life, you have moved yourself from sitting on the fence to beginning the most exciting journey possible.

We want to make sure you fully understand the decision you have taken and we wish to help you make the first steps of this journey in the right way. My prayer for you is that this information will help you grow in your relationship with God and that you will become not just someone who believes in Jesus but someone who follows Jesus. In this journey we want to help you find the life that God has for you, encourage you to live the life of a Jesus follower and then to release you to share that life with others.

It really is Good News and we hope that it will change and direct your life.

Chris Swart

Senior Pastor

1. HOW TO BE SURE OF YOUR SALVATION

How can anyone be sure that just because they made a decision and raised their hands in church, they are now a Christian on their way to Heaven, sure of eternal life? Well, it's really quite simple. The Bible is the authority on the truths of salvation. Firstly it says...

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. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. Romans 10:9,10 NLT

If you have prayed and asked Jesus into your life and believe with all your heart that He is your Saviour then you are saved. But you might say that you do not "feel" saved. Well, the Bible again says..

I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life. John 5:25 NLT

2. HOW TO GROW IN GOD

In order for you to grow and become all that God has for you in Christ, there are several important steps you will need to take.

ATTEND A GREAT CHURCH REGULARLY

This is where you can receive the spiritual food that you need to grow in your relationship with God and others. Make sure that you don't miss out on anything God is doing in church.

They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their numbers grew as God added those who were saved. Acts 2:46-47 MSG

BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST HAS COME INTO YOUR LIFE

If you have asked Jesus to come into your life and be your Lord and Saviour, then you can be sure that He will respond and do just that. It is a fact, not a feeling, and you will need to trust his promises, not your feelings. Feeling will often lie to us and make us feel as though we are not saved. Jesus himself said...

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. Those who are victorious will sit with me on the throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my father on his throne. Revelations 3:20,21 NLT

He came into the very world he created, but the world didn't even recognise him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn - not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God. John 1:10-13 NLT

REALISE THAT FAITH SAVES US AND NOT OUR GOOD DEEDS

And this same God who takes care of me will supply all our need from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. Now all glory to God our Father forever and ever! Amen. Philippians 4:19,20 NLT

As we trust Jesus for eternal life, we can also trust him for everything else need in our lives. By depending on and trusting in Jesus we are brought to the Father and made right with God. God has good deeds that he wants you to do in order to impact your world, but we don't do deeds to be saved and accepted by God. We do good deeds because we have been saved and now want to help others and show the love of God to them.

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. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:8-10

READ AND PRAY REGULARLY

Reading the Bible regularly will teach you about God, and praying regularly will help you connect with God and have your needs met. Also, when we pray, God speaks to us and it is not a one-way conversation. You can connect with God about all the issues in your life. For example: your fears, concerns, emotional life, family, marriage, children, school, job, studies, finances, career, habits and all the things that are holding you back from God's best for your life. The Bible has all the practical guidelines you need for living a successful life.

Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness. 1 Peter 2:2,3 NLT

Jesus encourages us to come to God confidently in prayer for anything we need or for any challenge we may be facing. Pray with confidence and boldness, fully expecting God to answer your prayers because you are now one of his children.

REMEMBER: GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS!

STAY HUNGRY FOR GOD

It is so easy to taste of the goodness of God and then turn away from Him. People who are hungry "eat". If we don't eat we have to be spon fed or drip fed. These show we are immature or ill. Hungry people seek food and eat so that they can grow strong and healthy. Galatians 3:2-4 MSG

If you stay planted in the church and established in God, then you will grow tall and flourish. You won't reach your full potential if you move around and church-hop. Psalms 92:12 NIV

REMEMBER: FLOURISHING CAN ONLY COME THROUGH PLANTING BECOME PLANTED IN CHURCH

Planting comes through a partnership decision with the church. Take part in Growth Track to learn more about the church and how to become connected.

The greatest way to grow in God is to grow in a volunteer role with others. Psalms 1:2-3 NIV

RESOURCE YOURSELF

Now that you have made a decision to walk with God, you will need to get as much input as you can. What we put into our lives is what we will get out. The Bible says.

The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks. Luke 6:45 NIV

There are plenty of resources we would encourage you to purchase as these will help you grow in faith and the knowledge of God. They will help you to live successfully and keep you motivated to serve God fully. Speak to any of the Life staff for suggestions.

But not everybody is ready for this, ready to see and hear and act. Isaiah asked what we all ask at one time or another: "Does anyone care, God? Is anyone listening and believing a word of it?" The point is: Before you trust, you have to listen. But unless Christ's Word is preached, there's nothing to listen to. But haven't there been plenty of opportunities for Israel to listen and understand what's going on? Plenty, I'd say. Preachers' voices have gone 'round the world, Their message to earth's seven seas. Romans 10:16-18 MSG

SIGN UP FOR WATER BAPTISM

One of the important things that should follow a commitment to Christ is the baptism in water. This is an outward sign of your inward decision and is the true test of whether you have given your life fully to Christ or only raised your hand because you had a need. Baptism is the commitment to go on with God and be all that he wants you to be. We encourage you to take this as a definite spiritual transition to your next phase in God. Watch Church News for details on our next baptism.

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. Acts 2:40,41 NIV

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:4 NIV

TRUST GOD WITH YOUR WHOLE LIFE

God has awesome plans for your life and has had his eye on you before you were even born. Believe that God is good, and that he wants to be good to you. Believe and fully trust that God wants to bless you and help you in every area of your life. Pray and ask for your needs to be met.

O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord. You hem me in - behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. when I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. Psalms 139:1-5 NIV