

UNDERSTANDING
**A RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD**

& The Basics of Christianity



THE **HOPE** LINE
www.TheHopeLine.com

Ever Asked These Questions?

What's the point of my life?

What does it mean to have a "relationship" with God?

Nothing seems to fill me up. Why do I always feel empty?

Why would I ever want to be a Christian?

How can I make sure I'm going to heaven when I die?

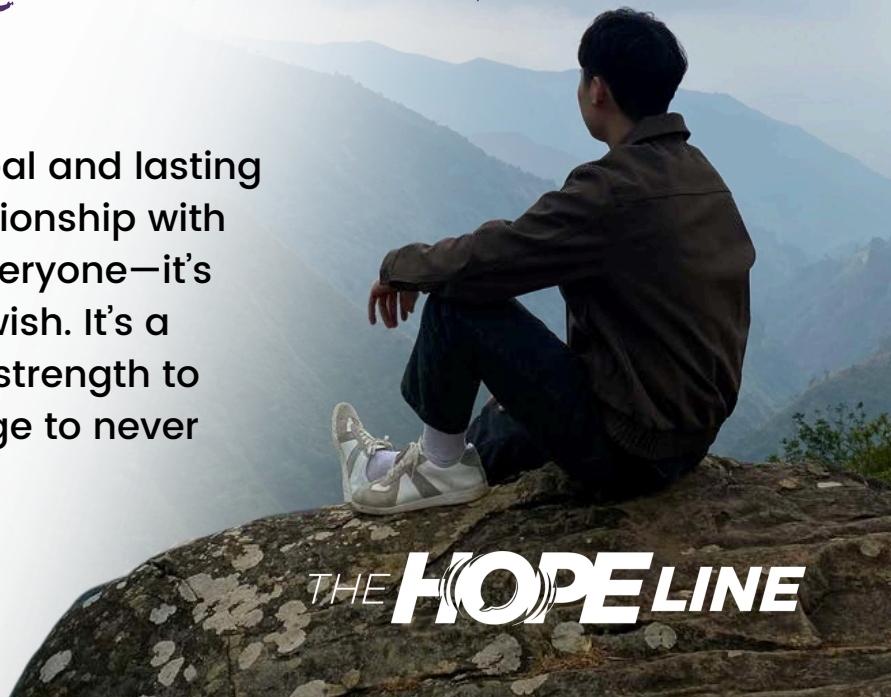
Who is Jesus?
What is he like?

Let's find the answers!

Here's what we believe...

At TheHopeline, we believe that real and lasting HOPE is found only through a relationship with Jesus. This HOPE is available to everyone—it's not a fleeting feeling or a simple wish. It's a rock-solid HOPE that gives us the strength to endure hard times and the courage to never give up.

THE **HOPELINE**



Christianity

The Basics



THE **HOPE**LINE

GOD IS 3 PARTS

There is **ONE GOD** who is **TRIUNE** (One God in three persons, not three gods) Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

God the **FATHER**

God the Father is a spiritual being who created the universe out of nothing. He is eternal, having no beginning and no end. Unchanging, holy, and perfect, He made humanity in His own image, loves us deeply, and remains actively involved in our lives.

God the **SON**

As the second Person of the Triune God, Jesus has always existed and was never created. He is fully God, and He also became fully human when He came to earth through the Holy Spirit and was born of the virgin Mary. Jesus lived a sinless life and willingly paid the price for all humanity's sins by dying on the cross according to God's plan. His sacrifice was the complete payment for our sins. On the third day, He rose from the dead—both spiritually and physically—conquering death once and for all. Salvation and eternal life are possible only through faith in Jesus. (More on that to come!)

God the **HOLY SPIRIT**

God the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Triune God. The Holy Spirit is present with all Christians today. He comforts, convicts, guides, and teaches those who follow Christ.

KEY CONCEPTS in Christianity



What is the *BIBLE*?

The Bible is the ultimate guide for how to live and understand God. It is a message that ultimately comes from God Himself and is completely trustworthy.



What is *SIN*?

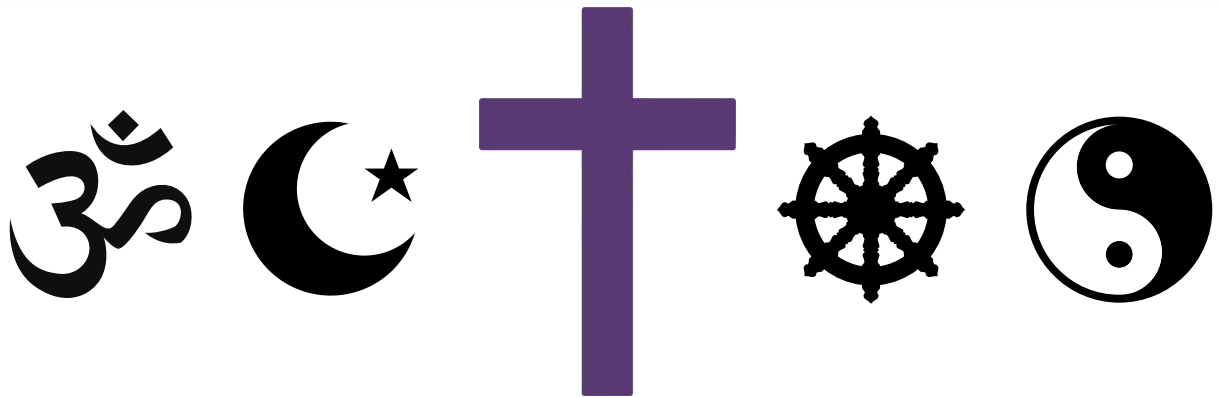
Every person is born with a tendency to do wrong and to live apart from God's way. There is a real spiritual enemy, called Satan, who opposes God and is behind all evil.



What does it mean to be *SAVED*?

In Christianity, "salvation" means being forgiven, made right with God, and given eternal life with Him. This does not happen by being good enough or doing religious things, but as a free gift from God. This gift is possible because Jesus died on your behalf and then came back to life. To receive this gift, you must accept what Jesus has done for you, trust in His death and resurrection, and as a result, turn away from your sin.

KEY CONCEPTS in Christianity



What makes Christianity **DIFFERENT** from other religions?

Many religions talk about an afterlife or heaven, but Christianity is unique in saying you do not have to “earn” your way there by your actions or by how good you are. Instead, Christianity teaches that Jesus paid the full price for you to enter heaven, even though you are a sinner, because he loves you and knew you could never live a perfectly holy life. All you need to do is trust that Jesus died to save you from your sins and believe that three days later he rose from the grave, conquering death. This is incredibly good news!



What the Bible Says

Ephesians 2:1-10

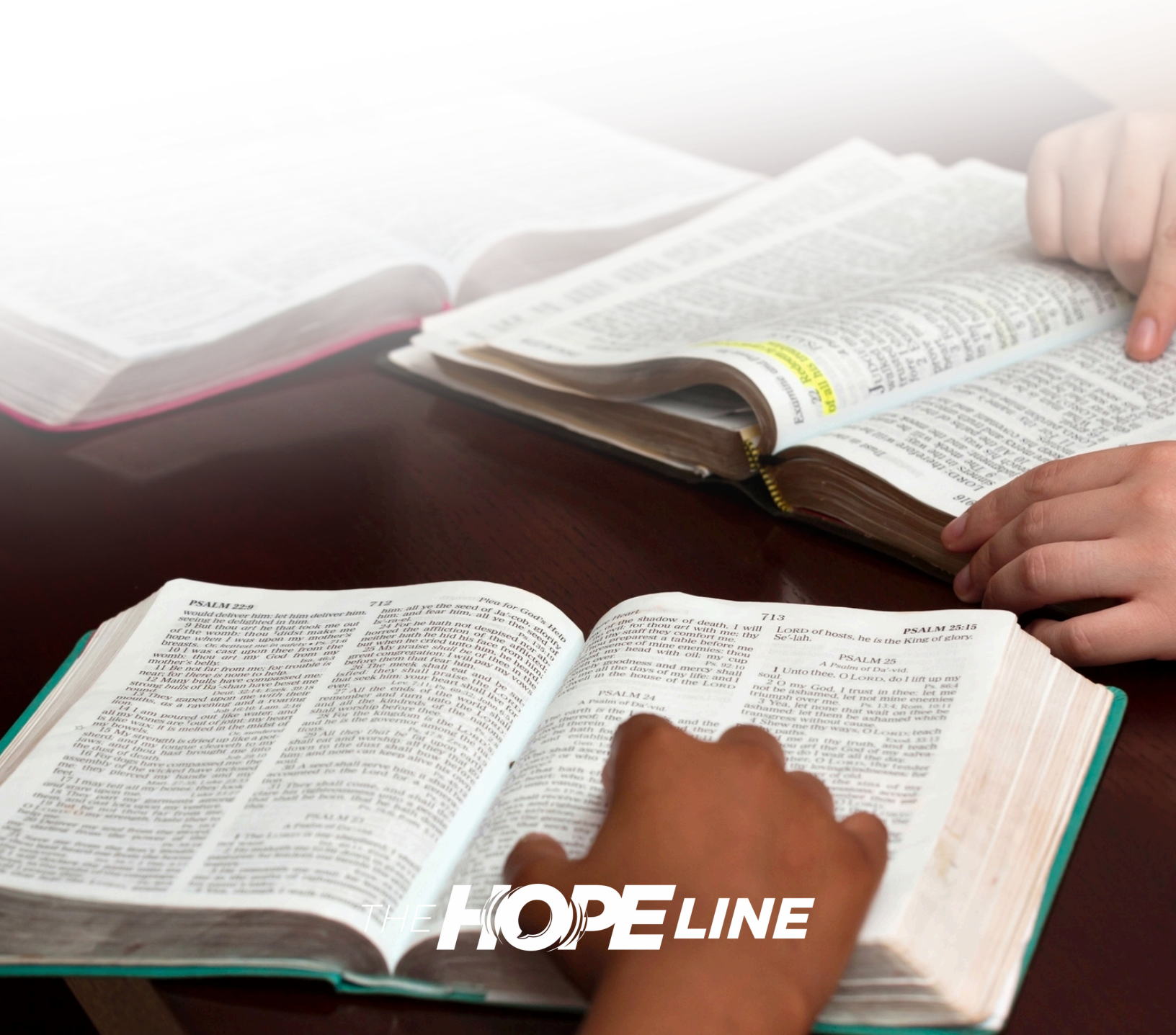
Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ² You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³ All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!) ⁶ For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. ⁷ So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰ 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.

Christianity

A Deeper Look



Who is **GOD?**



God is **BIG**

To be honest, that statement doesn't really capture how extraordinary God is. God created the entire world and everything in it. All power, beauty, strength, and goodness belong to Him. Imagine for a moment—someone who knows everything, cares about everyone, and has control over every part of existence. Nothing is beyond His love or ability. He can do far more than anyone could ever hope for or imagine.

"Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours." - 1 Chronicles 29:11

"Now all glory to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." - Ephesians 3:20

Who is **GOD?**

He Loves **YOU**

Take a moment to think about that – **there is a God who loves you personally and knows you by name. Isn't that incredible?**

Even when those who are supposed to love us unconditionally fall short, the Lord's love never fails. Hard to believe? **Think about this: God the Father loves you so deeply that He sent His Son who gave up His own life on your behalf.**

He Made the Ultimate **SACRIFICE** for **YOU**

But, why would he do that? God wants a real, personal connection with you. But there's a problem—He's perfect, and none of us are. Our flaws, mistakes, and selfish choices create a gap between us and Him.

God knew we couldn't fix that gap on our own. So, out of love, He made a way. Jesus, God's Son, came into the world and lived a life without wrongdoing. Then He gave up His life to take the place of all our failures, offering forgiveness to anyone who trusts Him.

When we accept what Jesus did, it's as if the weight of everything wrong we've ever done is lifted. God sees us as forgiven and welcomes us back into relationship with Him.

Think about that—no other kind of love compares. God's love is so deep that He was willing to endure pain and humiliation just to bring you close to Him.

Let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. – Hebrews 10:22

Who is **JESUS?**

Jesus is a **REAL PERSON**

Who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. – Romans 1:4

It's important to know that Jesus was a real person—not a myth or legend. Historical records outside the Bible, including ancient Jewish and Roman writings, mention Him. Jesus was the son of a carpenter and a Jewish teacher who lived about 2,000 years ago.

But what makes Jesus stand out is what He claimed about Himself. He said He was God's Son, and this was proven when He came back to life after being executed. That event—His resurrection—is what proved that Jesus truly was who He said He was.



Jesus is **ETERNAL**

Jesus existed even before the universe began. That's hard to wrap our minds around, but since He is truly God, it makes sense. God is not limited by time or the physical world the way we are. So when everything was first created—the sky, the earth, and everything in them—Jesus was already there.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. – Revelation 22:13

Who is **THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

The Holy Spirit is Your **COMPANION**

You receive the Holy Spirit the moment you accept Christ as your Savior. Ephesians 1:13 says, *“You were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.”* The Holy Spirit is your constant companion who will never leave you or fail you. Jesus gives us a glimpse of who the Holy Spirit is and the role the Holy Spirit plays in your life when He says the following:

“If you love me, obey my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. ¹⁷He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. - John 14:15-17

The Holy Spirit Gives You **NEW LIFE**



When we become children of God, Scripture tells us that we are made into a new creation—a completely new person. The life we once lived is gone, and our past no longer defines who we are. Instead, we begin a new life in Jesus Christ. As Jesus says in John 6:63, *“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.”* The Bible calls this being “born again,” meaning that through the Spirit, God gives you a fresh start and a new nature that empowers you to live differently. If you are a Christian, the Holy Spirit already lives within you.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

SALVATION

***NOBODY* is Worthy of Salvation**

Everyone needs to be rescued. You might think, “Not me—I’m a good person.”

But if we’re honest, we all make mistakes and choose to do things we know are wrong. We also know what’s right in God’s eyes, yet we often ignore it. Jesus said that God’s light came into the world, but people chose darkness instead (John 3:19). This includes all of us—no one is exempt. We’ve all missed God’s perfect standard. The result of that is death, but God offers something far greater: the free gift of eternal life through Jesus.

“But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus.” - Acts 15:11

***EVERYBODY* Can Have Salvation**

Maybe you’re thinking, “I do need saving, but God wouldn’t want me. He could never accept someone like me—I’ve made too many mistakes. It wouldn’t be fair to ask Him to love someone so broken.”

But that couldn’t be further from the truth. Jesus died for you—personally. That’s how much God loves you and wants a relationship with you. Think about it: are you saying that Jesus’ sacrifice wasn’t enough for your sins? It absolutely was. The Bible reminds us:

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” - Romans 5:8



Salvation is an **OPEN INVITATION**

An analogy from author, Lee Strobel

Imagine two student clubs everybody would love to join. To get into the one club, you've got to do a bunch of good things. You've got to be an honor student, a nice guy and a great athlete. If you can't meet the club's high standards, you don't get in.

Then there's the other club. No matter who you are— great grades or bad grades, incredible athlete or horrible athlete—this club is wide open to you. And your dues have been paid in full by the club leader! That club is an example of Christianity.

Does the second "club" sound narrow to you? Actually, I think other religions are a lot more exclusive, because you must live up to all kinds of rules, and even then, you still can't know if you've done enough. But Christianity says, "Jesus has met the requirements. The dues have been paid. Come on in!"

Jesus is the only way to eternal life with God.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

- John 14:6

Thankfully, that way is open to everyone.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16



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It's All About **GRACE**

You might hear the word grace often and think it simply means saying a prayer before a meal—but it's so much more than that. Grace can be understood as getting what you don't deserve.

As human beings, we all make wrong choices and do things that fall short of what is right. Because of that, we don't deserve God's free gift of salvation. Yet, amazingly, He gives it to us anyway. The Bible says, *"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).

Think of it like standing before a judge with a long list of every crime you've ever committed. The punishment for those crimes is death. But then, someone from the crowd steps forward and says they will take your punishment in your place. You are released, given a clean slate, and allowed to start again. That's grace—receiving what you don't deserve.

You don't ever have to earn God's love or salvation. He offers it freely to anyone who believes. A simple way to remember **GRACE is this:**

God's
Riches
At
Christ's
Expense



How to **RECEIVE** Salvation

Salvation comes through faith. If you want to be saved, talk to God honestly. Ask Him to forgive your sins, tell Him you believe in Him and in the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, and express your desire to live your life for Him.

“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





You can receive Salvation **RIGHT NOW**

You can talk to God anytime—right now if you'd like. Be honest with Him. Tell Him you're sorry for the wrong things you've done, thank Him for sending Jesus, and ask Him to lead your life from this point forward.

If you want to begin a relationship with God and be saved, here are **4 STEPS** that you can follow:

- 1** Be honest about your mistakes—you've done wrong, just like everyone else.
- 2** Ask for forgiveness and be ready to leave those wrong things behind.
- 3** Believe and trust in the fact that Jesus gave His life for you.
- 4** Talk to God—pray and invite Him to be part of your life.

When you pray to God, it doesn't have to sound perfect or follow any set words. Just speak from your heart. God listens to every sincere prayer and loves hearing from you.

Here's a simple example of what you could say:

Dear Jesus,
I'm sorry for the wrong things I've done. Please forgive me. I believe You gave Your life for me and rose again. Please come into my life, lead me, and help me live the way You want me to. Thank You for loving me and giving me a new start.
Amen.

Knowing Your Identity

As a Christian

THE **HOPE** LINE

3 TRUTHS *To Know About Your Walk With God*

1. God Will Never Abandon You

God will never leave you, even if He feels far away. In your darkest moments, hold on to hope—Jesus is right there with you, and nothing can ever separate you from His love.

³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 8:38–39



2. God is in Control

This is the same God who created the entire universe. He knows exactly what He's doing. He loves you and holds you securely in His hands. We can trust that He's working for our good and that He will take care of us.

³"They will have no fear of bad news, their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the LORD. Their hearts are secure, they will have no fear; in the end they will look in triumph on their foes." – Psalm 112:7–8

3. Faith is not Based on Feelings

Our faith rests on this truth: God came to earth as Jesus, gave His life for our sins, rose from the dead, and still reigns today as Lord over everything. Nothing can change that—not our feelings, not a rough day, not even conflict with others. Nothing.

Your **WORTH** is Decided by **GOD**

As a follower of Christ, you don't have to rely on the world's opinions to measure your worth. You can find peace in knowing that your value is determined by God.

What God says about You

You are Chosen

Ephesians 1:4 - Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes.

You are Loved

1 John 3:1 - See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!

Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

You are a Delight

Psalms 18:19 - He brought me out into a broad place; he rescued me, because he delighted in me.

Psalms 147:11 - The Lord's delight is in those who fear him, and those who put their hope in his unfailing love.

You are Made New

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) - This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

You are a Masterpiece

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT) - 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.

You are Saved

Romans 8:1-2 - So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

You are Beautiful

Isaiah 61:1-3 - He has sent me to...bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

You are Not Abandoned

Deuteronomy 31:8 - Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you.

God Created You **SPECIAL**

In today's culture, it's easy to assume that nothing really matters and that we, as individuals, are insignificant. But that couldn't be further from the truth! **You were created with unique care.**



Think about this: God made you in His image—He made you to reflect who He is. Can you imagine that? If God created you in His own likeness, then your life clearly has purpose and meaning.

*"God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."
- Genesis 1:27*

The Bible also tells us that God carefully formed every part of you and knit you together while you were still in your mother's womb.

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. - Psalm 139:13-14



If God took such care in creating you, don't you think He also gave your life a **PURPOSE?**

so, what is **YOUR PURPOSE?**

The purpose of your life is to bring glory and honor to God in everything you do. When we confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised Him from the dead, we're choosing to let go of our own way of living and follow His. That journey takes time—it's a process of growth and trust.

Take comfort in knowing that God is at work within you, giving you both the desire and the strength to do what pleases Him: "For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose" (Philippians 2:13).

As followers of Jesus, we naturally want to live with gratitude for the gift of salvation. We show that thankfulness by obeying God and sharing His love with others. When Jesus was asked which commandment was the greatest, He said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:36–39).



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Living Life

As a Christian



THE **HOPE** LINE

HOW TO LIVE LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN

PRAY



READ THE BIBLE



**FOLLOW GOD'S
INSTRUCTIONS**



JOIN A CHURCH





UNDERSTANDING PRAYER

What is Prayer?

Some people see prayer as a duty. Others treat it like a quick fix or a last resort. Many are open to prayer because they think the words themselves have some kind of magic power. But the real power of prayer comes from having faith and trust in a powerful God. **Prayer is the gift of being able to talk with your Heavenly Father and even hear from Him.**

Jesus taught His followers to pray continually. He said, *“Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives. Everyone who seeks finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened” (Luke 11:9–10).*

What Should I Pray For?

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault” - James 1:5.

“In every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God” - Philippians 4:6.

All through the Bible, God tells us to pray: pray when you are sick, pray when you need help, pray for peace, pray for your friends. **Prayer is meant to be a regular, honest conversation with Him, asking for help in every part of life.**

God wants to answer our requests. Jesus said in Matthew 21:22, *“And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”*



How Do I Pray?

People pray in many different ways. Some fold their hands and close their eyes, others lift their hands, bow down, or kneel. Some pray out loud, while others pray silently in their minds.

But none of these actions are necessarily the “right way”. Pray in whatever posture that helps you connect with God and show Him honor. In the end, God hears your heart no matter how you pray.

“You have searched me, Lord, and you know me... you perceive my thoughts from afar.” – Psalm 139:1–2

What if God Doesn't Answer My Prayer?

On some occasions, you might feel like God is ignoring you, like he's not answering your prayer. However, sometimes an answer to your prayers might not be what you're expecting. He might be waiting for the right time to answer it, or maybe He's answering it a different way. Just be patient and hold onto hope. Trust that he loves you and that His plan is better than your plan.

*“Let all that I am wait quietly before God, for my hope is in him.”
– Psalm 62:5*

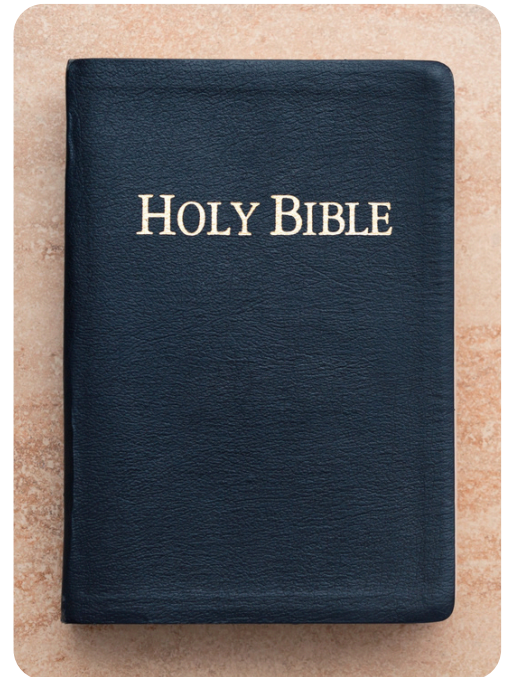
Think about your relationship with your best friend: you talk with them, listen to them, and enjoy spending time together. For that friendship to grow and stay healthy, it takes effort from both of you. The same is true of your relationship with God. As you grow in your faith, it takes intentional time and attention—but that doesn't mean you need perfect words or special phrases. You can simply talk to God the way you would talk to a close friend. Be honest and share what's on your heart. He already knows, but He wants to hear it from you.

You might wonder, “Does this mean I can ask for anything—like fame or wealth—and God will give it?” No. We need to ask with genuine faith in God and seek the things He desires for us, not just what we selfishly want (see James 1:6).

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

What is The Bible?

The word “Bible” simply means “collection of books.” The Holy Bible is made up of 66 books, written over thousands of years by more than 40 human authors who were all inspired by the same Spirit—the Holy Spirit. Even with so many different writers and time periods, the Bible still carries a unified message and remains the most influential and authoritative collection of books in history.



Why Should I Read The Bible?

Spending time with your best friend strengthens your friendship. The same is true for your relationship with God—and one of the best ways to spend time with Him is through consistent Bible study.

Everything written in the Bible is there to teach us. It not only instructs us but also gives us hope and encouragement as we patiently wait for God to fulfill His promises (Romans 15:4). The more time we spend with God as believers, the more we grow in faith and trust Him—much like we grow to trust our friends the more time we spend with them.

The great thing about God is that He will never leave or fail you. Your relationship with Him is the most important one you can have. So why not make it as strong as possible?

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance & the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." - Romans 15:4

How Can I Know The Bible Is True?

The Bible is called the Living Word of God because it is just as relevant now as when it was first written. It still speaks into our struggles and questions today, offering insight, wisdom, and truth for how to live. It is filled with hope-filled promises from the one true God and shows how deeply He loves us and cares for us when we call on Him.

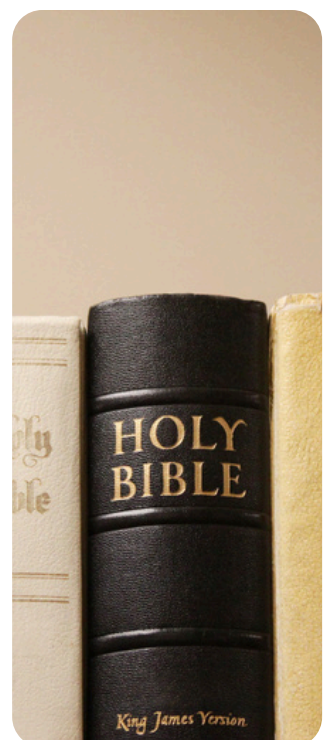
One common concern people have is whether the Bible is accurate and trustworthy. Some other faiths claim that, over so much time, errors or unreliable material must have been added. To think about this, imagine a simple coin flip: how many people would need to flip a quarter before one person got “heads” 30 times in a row? The answer is roughly a billion people. That’s extremely unlikely.

Now connect that to the Bible. There are about 30 specific prophecies about Jesus’ birth, death, and resurrection that have all been fulfilled. The odds of all those predictions coming true by chance are like someone flipping a coin and getting heads 30 times in a row. And that’s only the beginning. A conservative estimate is that around 245 biblical prophecies have already come true. Getting that many “hits” would be like someone flipping a coin and getting heads 245 times in a row—something so unlikely that it points to the Bible being far more than just a human book.

How Should I Read the Bible?

If you’ve never read the Bible before, begin with the Gospel of John. This book is the easiest to understand for new readers and was written for a broad audience. Through John, you’ll discover exactly who Jesus is and why He came to earth.

It’s also broken into 21 short, easy-to-read chapters. Why does that matter? Experts say it takes 21 days of doing something consistently to form a habit. So reading just one chapter a day will help you build the habit of spending time in God’s Word regularly!





FOLLOWING GOD'S WAYS

The Bible offers many instructions for living, including the Ten Commandments. **These guidelines matter because God gave them to protect us, encourage us to care for others, and grow His family.** But thankfully, our salvation doesn't depend on perfectly following them.

God loves us deeply and wants the best for us—He knows that living by His ways keeps us safe. For example, one commandment says, "Do not commit adultery," because God wants to protect marriages and spare us the pain of betrayal. Another says, "Do not lie," since dishonesty hurts others and often backfires on us. You get the idea: God's rules are for our good.

The 10 Commandments

- 1** You shall have no other gods before Me.
- 2** You shall not make idols.
- 3** You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
- 4** Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- 5** Honor your father and your mother.
- 6** You shall not murder.
- 7** You shall not commit adultery.
- 8** You shall not steal.
- 9** You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 10** You shall not covet what belongs to your neighbor.

The Bible also calls us to forgive each other just as God forgave us in Christ (Ephesians 4:32), to love others as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:39), to care for the poor and needy (Proverbs 19:17), to fight for justice and righteousness (Micah 6:8), to be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32), and to look after widows and orphans in their distress (James 1:27)—and so much more, all flowing from God's heart for how we should live in relationship with Him and others.

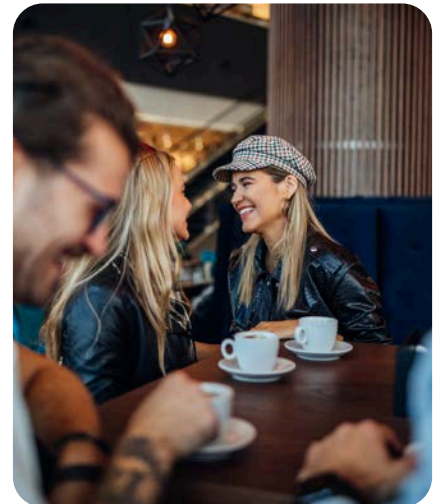


UNDERSTANDING CHURCH

What is The Church?

The moment you're saved, you're welcomed into God's family. Scripture assures us of this: "To all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).

This family is called the Church—and it's far more than just a building with four walls and a roof. The Church includes every believer, young and old, all across the world, who have called out to God for salvation. We are a chosen people, God's very own possession, called out of darkness into His wonderful light. Once we had no identity and received no mercy, but now we're children of God and know His compassion (1 Peter 2:10).



"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God." - 1 Peter 2:9-10

Why Should I Join A Church?

There are so many strong reasons to join a church! Here are the main ones.

- 1.** To worship God and stay centered on Him each week.
 - 2.** To grow in your faith through teaching, guidance, and encouragement.
 - 3.** To belong to a Christian community where you give and receive support.
-

As a Christian, you are part of God's great family—the Universal Church. But God also desires for you to belong to a smaller family known as a local church. A local church is a community of believers in Jesus who are committed to supporting one another and following Him together.

God knows that you need the guidance of a pastor, the care of fellow Christians, and the encouragement and safety of a church home to help you grow in your faith.



The many followers acted and thought the same way. None of them said that any of their things were their own, but they shared all things. - Acts 4:32

Tips For Finding the Right Church

Church is like a family. It's important to understand that no church is perfect—just like no family is perfect. In fact, it's best to think of the local church as a hospital: a place full of broken people who are forming a community of believers while finding hope and healing from the Lord. So, how do you find the right one? **First, ask God for guidance and use these questions to guide your search.**

1 *Does the church believe faith in Jesus is the only way to be saved?*

Jesus Himself declares, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Some churches teach that faith in Jesus alone isn't enough—that extra works or rituals are required for salvation. This isn't God's design. Salvation comes solely through Jesus Christ, since we can never do enough on our own to meet God's perfect standard.

2 *Does the church believe the Bible is 100% true?*

Some churches accept only select parts of the Bible as true, while others reject it entirely in favor of their founder's writings. This is a serious warning sign. Seek a church that honors the Bible as God's complete Word—since all Scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching truth, exposing wrong, and guiding righteous living (2 Timothy 3:16).

3 *Does the church tell others about Jesus?*

If a church isn't actively reaching out, then it's not obeying one of Jesus' direct commands. He tells us to go into our communities and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19). We should all want to share what God has done for us—and we need to find a church that does the same.

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.'" - Matthew 28:18-20

SHARE YOUR STORY

We're so excited for you as you begin this new relationship with Jesus and start your journey of faith! Sharing your testimony is a powerful way to help others come to know Him. If you'd like to share your story with us, visit the **STORIES** page on our website.

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