



Decision for Salvation

Congratulations for the decision you have made. Accepting Jesus Christ into your heart as your personal Savior is the most important decision of your life. The Bible expresses it as the new birth. Because of the work of Christ Jesus on the cross, you are now saved from the condemnation we all deserve for our sins. Now you have the assurance that when you die, you will go to the presence of God to be with Him always. He has promised it in His Word (John 3: 3).

It is important for you to know that by receiving Christ as your personal Savior, He gives you:

1. Forgiveness of sins

He will again have compassion upon us; he will tread our iniquities under foot; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7:19). By his grace, the Lord forgives all our offenses and forgets them forever, **never to remember them again** (Hebrews 10:17). His forgiveness is complete and eternal. Therefore, he will never rebuke us for our forgiven sins.

2. Eternal life

These things have I written unto you, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, even unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God. (1 John 5:13). This means that we will live forever with the Lord in heaven, where there will be no pain, no sickness, nor sin. We will spend eternity praising and serving our God and Savior (Revelation 21: 3-4,27).

Accepting Christ also enables us to have a holy, righteous, and abundant life before Him. We do not have to live enslaved by sin, neither with evil thoughts, words and habits, all of which contaminate our hearts (John 8:36). We now count on God's help to cultivate a life of virtue. Thanks to the salvation in Jesus Christ, we are newborn children, new creatures that are part of the family of God. We have a new opportunity to live! "Wherefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Likewise, our spiritual birth implies there must be growth; we must develop spiritually until we reach maturity. God wants all of his children to reach the stature of Christ (Ephesians 4:13). We want to share with you advice that will help you grow in your Christian life.



1. Read the Bible

The Bible is the Word of God; in it you will find everything you need to know the Lord and his will for your life. As we read it, our way of thinking changes. We begin to keep God's instructions, his promises and his advice in our minds and hearts. This in turn will change our way of behaving and expressing ourselves. Moreover, his words will comfort you in difficult times and teach you the divine precepts needed to live a life that glorifies God (John 5:39; Colossians 3:16).

If it is the first time that you are going to read the Word of God, we suggest you begin reading the gospel of John; you can also start with the book of Psalms or Proverbs. Set aside a daily time to read your Bible. It is useful to have a notebook at hand to write what you learned, as well as questions that may arise. We also recommend you use a dictionary to look up those words you do not understand. Enjoy learning and always ask God to help you understand the message of his Word (Psalm 42: 1,2; Colossians 1: 9,10).

2. Pray

Praying is talking to God. He speaks to us by His Word and he gives us the blessing of communicating with Him through prayer. You can pour out your heart before God and tell him your joys, your sorrows, and your desires. You also can go to Him to ask for His help for your needs and those of your loved ones. You can also ask for his forgiveness when you have offended him with your sin and you can praise him for all the blessings he is giving you everyday (Psalm 62: 8; Matthew 7: 7). Remember, God is your Father and your friend; He will always listen to you and answer according to His will. After reading the Bible, take time to pray and ask for the Lord's direction in your life (Ephesians 6:18).

3. Attend a church that teaches sound doctrine.

Attend regularly a church where the Word of God is taught. In this way, you will learn much more about the new life in Christ and you will be edified by spending time with other young people who, like you, have the desire to grow in faith (Psalm 122: 1; 133: 1; Hebrews 10:25).

We want to warn you that sometimes we experience the rejection of others for having made the decision to accept Christ as our Savior. When that happens, do not be discouraged! Remember, the Lord was also rejected when he gave himself for us on Calvary's cross. Don't be discouraged if they respond negatively when you share about the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for all. Pray for them and continue sharing what the Lord has done in your life (Mark 5: 18,19).



4. Take care of your life

The Word of God encourages us to watch over our lives (1 Peter 5: 8). This means that we must be watchful over our behavior, words and thoughts so they don't lead to sin. However, given our sinful nature, there will be times when we unfortunately will offend God. (2 Samuel 11: 27b; Psalm 5: 4), but by his grace we can be restored, for the Lord raises up the one who repents and confesses his sin (Proverbs 28:13). Come to God through prayer and ask forgiveness for what you did. Resolve to continue living with his help (1 John 1: 9). Remember that He does not expect perfection from you but faithfulness; do not dismay nor cease to seek his help in your weakness.

God has given you new life; in his mercy, he rescued you from eternal condemnation to walk the path of good works that he prepared for you. We encourage you to seek God with all your heart, as the psalmist did: "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, So panteth my soul after thee, O God" (Salm 42: 1);

Rejoice in your life by following the footsteps of the Lord!