
ANSWERS



To Live By

ANSWERS To Live By

Answers you can trust
to some of life's
most important questions

Compiled by Edwin D. Roels



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Are You Sure?

Do You Know...?

Do you know the answers to life's most important questions?

Are you sure your answers are correct?

If you are not sure, would you like to be?

You Can Be Sure!

You do not have to live in uncertainty and doubt. *There are answers* to your questions. Meaningful answers. Answers you can trust. Answers you can live by!

Where To Find the Answers

The answers are found in the pages of the Bible. Already millions of people around the world have discovered the Bible's answers for themselves, and have found life and peace through them. Every day thousands more are finding meaning and purpose for their lives by turning to the Bible. Throughout history *more people have found answers to their deepest questions in the Bible than in any other book* that has ever been written. Your questions can be answered, too!

Read With Joy!

In these pages you will find the Bible's answers to some of the most important questions that have ever been asked. Read them for yourself. Read them carefully. Read them in faith. Discover the joy of learning why the Bible is the greatest book the world has ever known!

Answers To Your Questions About the Bible

Why is the Bible regarded as the world's greatest book? The answer is simple: Because the Bible is the Word of God! When you read the Bible, you are reading a message from God himself! When the Bible speaks, God speaks!

Because the Bible is God's Word, the Bible does far more than simply give us information. The Bible gives us a promise. A promise of life! Everyone who receives the Bible's message in faith is promised the rich gift of everlasting life in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

1. Where did the Bible come from?

From God himself. God chose various people to write down what he wanted them to write.

"All Scripture is God-breathed." 2 Timothy 3:16a

"Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."
2 Peter 1:21b

2. Why do we need the Bible?

No one can live life to the fullest without knowing the true Word of God.

"Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4

3. Can we trust what the Bible says?

Yes, God's Word is true, and all its promises will surely be fulfilled.

"Your word is truth." John 17:17b

"Not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished."

Matthew 5:18b

4. Isn't the Bible too old to be of any help to us today?

Not at all! The Bible is a living book which speaks to the hearts of people in every age and place.

"The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword,...it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12

5. How can the Bible help us in our everyday life?

The Bible teaches us how to live useful and meaningful lives that are pleasing to God.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16, 17

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

Psalms 119:105

6. What is the greatest benefit we can receive from reading the Bible?

The Bible directs us to Jesus Christ, through whom we can find eternal life.

"The holy Scriptures...are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

2 Timothy 3:15

"These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

John 20:31

Answers To Your Questions About God

Most people in the world have heard about the existence of God. For many people, however, the word "God" does not mean very much. They do not know who God is or what he has done. They know nothing of God's holiness, his power, or his love. They do not know whether or not God cares about them, and they do not know how to find out.

Read what God has told us about himself in the pages of the Bible.

1. Who is God?

God is the creator of the world and the source of all life.

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth.... He himself gives all men life and breath and everything else."
Acts 17:24,25

2. How many true Gods are there?

Only one.

God said, "I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God."
Isaiah 45:5a

3. Is it possible for us to learn the truth about God?

Yes, because God has made himself known to us—both in nature and in the Bible.

"Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."

Romans 1:20

"In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways."

Hebrews 1:1

4. Is there any other way in which God has made himself known to us?

Yes, God has revealed himself most clearly in his Son, Jesus Christ.

"In these last days [God] has spoken to us by his Son." Hebrews 1:2a

"No one has ever seen God, but God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known." John 1:18

5. What are some of the things God has told us about himself?

God is gracious, loving, and good.

"The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made."

Psalm 145:8, 9

"God is love"

1 John 4:8b

6. What else has God made known to us about himself?

God is powerful, just, and holy.

"Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him." Psalm 115:3

"Great and marvelous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are your ways." Revelation 15:3b

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

Isaiah 6:3

7. Did God have a beginning?

No, God has neither beginning nor end.

"Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God." Psalm 90:2

8. Is it possible for us to see God?

No, God is invisible to human eyes.

"[God] lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see."

1 Timothy 6:16

9. May we make images or pictures of God to help us worship him?

No, God is a spirit and does not want us to make idols of any kind.

"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

John 4:24

"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below." Exodus 20:4

10. What relationship does this great and holy God have to our present world?

God continues to uphold and govern our world day by day. He is the source of every blessing we enjoy.

"The Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes."
Daniel 4:32

"He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy."
Acts 14:17

11. Does it make any difference to God how we as individuals live in this world?

Very much so. Everyone must some day give an account to God for everything he has done.

"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."
Hebrews 4:13

12. Isn't God too great to be concerned about our needs and problems?

No, God is concerned about *everything* that takes place on the earth—even the very smallest things.

"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered."
Matthew 10:29,30

13. Is God willing to listen to us when we talk to him?

Yes, God listens to the prayers of all those who sincerely call on him.

"The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."
Psalm 145:18

14. Is it possible for us to understand God and his ways completely?

No, God is far greater than we can ever understand.

"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out."
Romans 11:33

Answers To Your Questions About the Origin of the World

Many people ask questions about the origin of our world. How did the universe get started? Where did everything come from? Was there someone who made this world and the people in it, or did everything just happen by chance?

Obviously, these are very important questions. The answers you give will determine how you think about yourself, about others, and about the world you live in.

Listen to what the Bible says!

1. How did our universe get started?

God created it!

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

"By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command."
Hebrews 11:3a

2. Where did the first man and woman come from?

God created them.

"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 Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."
Genesis 2:7

3. Where did these people live?

In a beautiful place called the Garden of Eden.

"Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed." Genesis 2:8

4. What was their relationship to the rest of creation?

God gave them a position of glory and honor over all that he had made.

"You [God] made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet." Psalm 8:5, 6

5. What responsibilities did God give them?

God told them to fill the earth, to rule over it, and to take care of it.

"God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'" Genesis 1:28

6. What was the world like when God finished his work of creation?

Everything was very good.

"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." Genesis 1:31a

7. What difference does it make that our world was created by God rather than formed by accident or chance?

The entire world and everyone in it belong to God, because he made them.

"The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." Psalm 24:1

8. What attitude does God have toward his creation?

God cares about this world and about everyone in it.

"The eyes of all look to you [God], and you give them their food at the proper time.." Psalm 145:15

"The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made." Psalm 145:17

9. How should we respond to God as our Creator?

We should love him, worship him, and honor him.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." Deuteronomy 6:5

"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." Revelation 4:11

Answers To Your Questions About Man's Fall into Sin

After reading about the creation of the world, you may wonder: If everything was so wonderful in the beginning, why isn't it that way anymore? Where did suffering and sorrow and death come from? Why is there so much bitterness and hatred and misunderstanding in the world? What happened to all the harmony, peace, and joy?

The Bible's answer to all those questions is clear and simple. It can be put into one sentence: Everything changed when man fell into sin!

1. What command did God give the first people he made?

God told them not to eat from one of the trees in the garden where they lived.

God said, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."
Genesis 2:16, 17

2. Did they obey God's command?

No, they chose to live their own way rather than God's way.

"When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it."
Genesis 3:6

3. What happened when they sinned against God?

They lost their fellowship with God and opened the way to suffering, judgment, and death.

"The man and his wife...hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden."
Genesis 3:8

God said, "Because you...ate from the tree...cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you.... By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken;

for dust you are and to dust you will return."

Genesis 3:17-19

4. But what does *their* sin have to do with us?

Once sin entered the world, it affected everyone who has ever lived.

"Sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned."

Romans 5:12

"The result of one trespass was condemnation for all men."

Romans 5:18a

5. Is everyone sinful and guilty before God?

Yes, without exception.

"There is no one righteous, not even one."

Romans 3:10

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 3:23

6. Can't a loving God simply overlook the fact that we are all sinners?

No, though God is gracious and merciful, he is also just. God cannot let sin go unpunished.

"The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished."

Numbers 14:18a

"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows."

Galatians 6:7

Answers To Your Questions About Jesus Christ

When the first people sinned in the Garden of Eden, they became afraid and tried to hide from God. But God, in his love, sought them out and talked with them.

God told them that they would surely be punished because of their sin, but he also brought them a message of hope: death and suffering and pain would not have the last word in their lives. They would not have to live in despair! God promised that someday a person would come to earth who would win a glorious victory over sin and death!

Though they did not fully understand it at the time, the person God promised to send was Jesus Christ. Jesus was the one who would bring forgiveness and peace. Jesus would restore lost mankind to fellowship with God.

Read thoughtfully the story of Jesus, and learn why countless people around the world consider him the most wonderful person who has ever lived.

1. Who is Jesus Christ?

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God.

God said about Jesus, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Luke 3:22

"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being." Hebrews 1:3a

2. Why did God send his Son into the world?

God sent Jesus into the world so that we might have eternal life through him.

"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

3. How did Jesus come into our world?

Jesus was born as a human baby to a Jewish virgin named Mary.

"God sent the angel Gabriel...to a virgin [whose] name was Mary. The angel said to Mary, 'You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus!'"
Luke 1:26, 27, 31

4. Who was Jesus' father?

Jesus was conceived by God, the Holy Spirit.

"Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 1:18b

5. Did most of the world rejoice when Jesus was born?

No, Jesus was born in a small village under very humble circumstances.

"The time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

Luke 2:6b, 7

(Read the story of Jesus' birth in Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2:1-20.)

6. Why was he given the name "Jesus"?

Because the name Jesus means "Savior." Jesus came to save his people from their sins.

The angel said, "You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21b

7. What did Jesus do while he was on earth?

Jesus went around the towns of Israel, teaching and preaching, healing the sick, casting out demons, forgiving sins, and helping those who were in need.

"Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness."

Matthew 9:35

"Demons came out of many people shouting, 'You are the Son of God!'"

Luke 4:41a

To a sinner who repented Jesus said, "Your sins are forgiven."

Luke 7:48

Describing his own ministry, Jesus said, "The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor."

Matthew 11:5

8. How did the people respond to the miracles and teachings of Jesus?

Most of the people were amazed, and many came to believe in him.

"People were overwhelmed with amazement. 'He has done everything well,' they said." Mark 7:37a

"Many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name." John 2:23

(Read all four of the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—for a more extensive account of the life of Jesus.)

9. Did everyone who saw Jesus' miracles and heard him speak believe in him?

No, Jesus was rejected by the Jewish leaders who were jealous of him. They handed Jesus over to the Roman governor to be put to death.

"All the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death. They bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor." Matthew 27:1, 2

"[Pilate] knew that it was out of envy that they handed Jesus over to him." Matthew 27:18

10. How did Jesus die?

Jesus was mocked and tortured by Roman soldiers and then put to death on a cross outside the city of Jerusalem.

"The soldiers...put a purple robe on him, then wove a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they worshiped him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him." Mark 15:16-20

(For a fuller account of the death of Jesus, read Matthew 26 and 27, Mark 14 and 15, Luke 22 and 23, and John 18 and 19.)

11. Was Jesus crucified because he had done something wrong?

No, Jesus lived an absolutely perfect life.

"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly."

1 Peter 2:22, 23

12. What happened to Jesus' body after he died?

Jesus' body was lovingly buried by a rich man named Joseph.

"Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away." Matthew 27:59, 60

13. Did Jesus' body stay in the grave?

No, after three days Jesus rose again.

"God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him." Acts 2:24

(The Bible records the story of Jesus' resurrection in Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-49, and John 20 and 21.)

14. What did Jesus do after he rose from the grave?

For forty days he stayed on earth to prove to his followers that he was alive.

"After his suffering, he showed himself to [the apostles he had chosen] and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God." Acts 1:3

15. What happened after the forty days?

Jesus returned to heaven where he now rules over all things in heaven and on earth.

"While he was blessing [his disciples], he left them and was taken up into heaven." Luke 24:51

"[God] seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion." Ephesians 1:20b, 21a

16. What is Jesus doing now?

Jesus is praying for us and preparing a place for us.

"[Jesus] entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence." Hebrews 9:24b

Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many rooms.... I am going there to prepare a place for you." John 14:2

17. Is Jesus going to stay in heaven?

No, someday he will return to earth again and will take us to himself.

Jesus said, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." John 14:3

(For further information about the return of Jesus, see pages 42-45.)

Answers To Your Questions About Salvation

After reading the wonderful story of Jesus, it may still not be clear to you just what Jesus accomplished. Jesus is called the Savior, but the world still seems to be lost. Suffering and sorrow abound, and people continue to die as they always have. Even the natural world around us shows signs of ruin and decay. In so many ways life seems to be getting worse rather than better. Just what does it mean that "Jesus saves"?

With a believing heart, read what the Bible says!

1. What does it really mean for a person to be "saved"?

To be saved is to become a child of God, to have all one's sins forgiven, and to receive the gift of eternal life.

"To all who received him [Jesus], to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12

"The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." 1 John 1:7b

"God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." 1 John 5:11

2. But if God himself said that the wages of sin is death, how can he forgive our sins without punishing us?

Jesus died in our place. He took on himself all the punishment we deserved.

"He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.... The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Isaiah 53:5, 6

(See also Romans 5:6-8; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 1 Peter 1:18, 19; 1 Peter 2:24.)

3. Is God actually willing to forgive all our sins?

Yes, every one!

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." Isaiah 1:18b

"As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us."
Psalms 103:12

4. What must we do in order to receive this wonderful salvation?

We must repent of our sins and believe that Jesus died for us.

"Repent, then and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."
Acts 3:19

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."
Acts 16:31

5. Can't we earn salvation by trying to live a good life?

No, we are saved by God's grace (his unmerited favor and love), not by our own efforts.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."
Ephesians 2:8,9

6. Is there no other way to be saved except through Jesus?

There is no other way.

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
John 14:6

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."
Acts 4:12

7. What great promise is given to everyone who believes in Jesus?

Everyone who truly believes receives the gift of eternal life. He is no longer under the sentence of death.

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."
John 5:24

8. When does eternal life begin?

Eternal life in Christ begins the moment a person believes.

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life."
John 6:47

9. What will happen to those who do not believe?

Those who do not believe will continue to live under the judgement of God and will be eternally lost.

"Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son." John 3:18

10. What does the Bible teach about being "born again"?

The Bible teaches that a person cannot be saved unless he is born again.

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3

11. What does it mean to be born again?

To be born again is to receive a new, inner, spiritual life through the Holy Spirit so that one becomes a new person in Christ.

Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit." John 3:6

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17

12. Why is it necessary to be born again in order to enter the Kingdom of heaven?

Without this new birth, everyone is spiritually dead because of his sins. He remains under the sentence of death.

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live... But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved." Ephesians 2:1-5

13. Is it important for us to confess our faith in Christ publicly?

Yes.

Jesus said, "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven." Matthew 10:32, 33

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."
Romans 10:9, 10

14. Can believers be absolutely sure that they have eternal life?

Yes, beyond any doubt!

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."
1 John 5:13

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons...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

15. What happens to believers when they die?

Believers are taken immediately into the presence of Jesus.

"Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven....Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.... We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:1, 6, 8

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain....I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far."
Philippians 1:21, 23

16. What will happen to the bodies of believers who die?

They will rise again in glory when Jesus returns to earth.

"The Lord Jesus Christ...will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."
Philippians 3:20, 21

17. Will the rest of creation also share in the salvation Jesus came to bring?

Yes, when Jesus comes again, the entire creation will be renewed.

"The creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God."
Romans 8:21

Answers to your Questions About the Holy Spirit

Before Jesus left his disciples, he promised that he would send the Holy Spirit to them when he returned to heaven. Up to that point, however, the disciples still knew very little about the Holy Spirit. So Jesus explained to them how the Spirit would come to them, how he would live within them, and how he would empower them to live as Jesus had taught them. The Holy Spirit would also serve as their counselor and guide, bringing to their minds everything Jesus had taught them while he was on earth.

Through the Holy Spirit, both the disciples and all believers would be able to produce spiritual fruit that would glorify God. The Spirit would increasingly purify their motives, fill them with joy, and enable them to be all that Christ taught them to be. Through his work in their lives, believers would also be able to witness to others with such power that many would be attracted to Christ and to the fellowship of believers.

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is God, just as the Father and the Son are God. Together, the Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit are the only true God.

"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."

Matthew 28:19

2. When do we first read about the Holy Spirit?

At the very beginning of the Bible, in the story of creation.

"Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." Genesis 1:2

3. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our spiritual life?

The Holy Spirit is the Creator and Source of spiritual life.

"Jesus answered, 'I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'"

John 3:5-7

4. **Is the Holy Spirit a divine Person, or is he simply a powerful spiritual influence?**

The Holy Spirit is truly personal—someone who thinks, loves, feels, and acts.

Jesus said, "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." John 14:26

"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth..." John 16:13

"I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me." Romans 15:30

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." Ephesians 4:30

5. **How can we receive the Holy Spirit?**

We must repent of our sins, trust in Christ for forgiveness, and ask our Father in heaven to give us the gift of the Holy Spirit.

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38

"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Luke 11:13

6. **In what ways does the Holy Spirit help us?**

- a. He enables us to produce spiritual fruit that pleases God.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23

- b. He helps us pray.

"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express." Romans 8:26

- c. He strengthens us against temptation and helps us to become more like Jesus.

"So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature." Galatians 5:16

- d. He gives us spiritual gifts which we can use in service to God and others.

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.... Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.... All these [gifts] are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines." 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

- e. He enables us to live in harmony and peace with other believers.

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—...one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." Ephesians 4:3-6

- f. He enables us to witness to others about Jesus Christ.

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...." Acts 1:8

7. Is it possible to disobey the Holy Spirit and lose the blessing and joy of living for Christ?

Yes, at least temporarily. When we deliberately choose to sin, we grieve the Holy Spirit and lose the peace and joy which he gives when we obey him.

"The mind of the sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace...." Romans 8:6

8. Why should we always obey the leading of the Holy Spirit?

Our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who lives within us. We are not our own masters; we belong to God.

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

9. What will happen to our bodies if the Holy Spirit is living in us?

Some day the Holy Spirit will give life to our mortal bodies so that we will have a resurrection body like that of Jesus.

"And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you." Romans 8:11

Answers To Your Questions About Living as a Christian

Many people are eager to accept the salvation Jesus gives, but they have many questions about living as a Christian. Some wonder if they will be able to live a Christian life. Others aren't sure that they are willing to do all that Jesus might ask of them. Still others see the Christian life primarily as a matter of do's and don'ts and are afraid that Christianity will take all the fun out of their lives.

What does it mean to live as a Christian? Can anyone really live a life that is pleasing to God? Does Christianity take the fun out of life?

Read what the Bible says about both the challenge and the blessing of living as a follower of Jesus.

1. What challenge does Jesus give those who want to follow him?

Jesus challenges them to be willing to give up everything for him—even their lives!

Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it."

Mark 8:34, 35

2. Why should believers want to live a Christian life?

Out of gratitude for what God has done for them.

"I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God."

Romans 12:1

3. Who makes it possible for believers to live a Christian life?

God himself does, since believers cannot live a Christian life on their own.

"It is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose."

Philippians 2:13

4. How will believers show that God is really at work in their lives?

The Holy Spirit within them will produce Christ-like fruit for all to see.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23a

5. What is "Christian love" like?

The Bible describes Christian love in the following words:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."
1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

6. Are there any examples of Christian love for us to follow?

Yes, Jesus himself gave us a perfect example.

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."
1 John 3:16-18

7. What is meant by worldliness?

"Worldliness" is living according to the standards and desires of the sinful and non-believing world.

"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world." 1 John 2:15, 16

8. What are some of the specific sins which the Bible warns against?

Lying, stealing, bad language, fighting, sexual immorality, drunkenness—and many others.

"Each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor. ...He who has been stealing must steal no longer....Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths....Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ...There must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed....Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit." Ephesians 4:25-31; 5:3, 18

9. Is it possible for believers to overcome temptation and live a holy life?

Yes, since God always provides a way out of each temptation.

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."
1 Corinthians 10:13

10. Is God willing to forgive believers who fall into sin?

Yes, if they humbly confess their sins and ask forgiveness.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."
1 John 1:9

11. How can believers help each other live a Christian life?

By worshiping together, encouraging one another, praying for one another, and being careful never to lead each other into sin.

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another."
Hebrews 10:25

"Be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints [believers]."
Ephesians 6:18b

"Be careful...that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak."
1 Corinthians 8:9

12. What attitude should believers have toward money and possessions?

They should be very careful not to be led astray by a love for money or material things.

Jesus said, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."
Luke 12:15

"The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs."
1 Timothy 6:10

13. What does the Bible teach about giving?

Believers should give generously, regularly, and cheerfully.

"Just as you excel in everything...see that you also excel in this grace of giving."
2 Corinthians 8:7

"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income." 1 Corinthians 16:2a

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:7

14. What are the results of generous and cheerful giving?

Those who give are blessed, the needs of others are met, and God is praised.

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." 2 Corinthians 9:6

"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."

2 Corinthians 9:12

15. Should believers speak to non-believers about Jesus Christ?

Yes, they should be prepared to witness to others whenever possible.

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. but do this with gentleness and respect."

1 Peter 3:15

16. Where does a believer get the power to witness effectively?

From the Holy Spirit.

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

17. What general guidelines should a believer follow as he seeks to live a Christian life?

He should always seek to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and do everything to the glory of God.

"Live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature."

Galatians 5:16

"Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

1 Corinthians 10:31

Answers To Your Questions About Prayer

One of the greatest privileges believers have as they seek to live a Christian life is prayer. When believers pray, they speak directly and personally with their Father in heaven. Nothing comes between them and their God.

In order for us to pray properly, we do not need to use special words or a special tone of voice. All that is needed is a sincere desire to bring to God the deepest feelings and desires of our hearts.

1. How important is prayer in the life of a believer?

Believers should pray about everything!

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:6, 7

2. In whose name should we pray?

In the name of Jesus.

Jesus said, "And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."
John 14:13, 14

3. Does God hear and answer the prayers of his people?

Absolutely!

"This is the assurance we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us."
1 John 5:14
"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."
James 5:16b

4. What promise is given to those who pray according to God's will?

God will grant their requests.

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."
Matthew 7:7

5. Will God always give us everything we ask for?

No, because there are times when we ask for things with wrong motives or with sin in our hearts.

"When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." James 4:3

"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened."

Psalm 66:18

6. Is there any other reason why God may not give us everything we ask for?

Yes, because what we have asked for may not be the best for us.

"There was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me....For when I am weak, then I am strong."

2 Corinthians 12:7b-10

7. Is prayer primarily a matter of asking God for things?

No, prayer includes praise, confession, and thanksgiving, as well as requests.

Jesus said, "This is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. (For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.)'"

Matthew 6:9-13

8. What warnings did Jesus give concerning prayer?

We must be careful not to pray in order to be praised by men, and we should not pray with an unforgiving spirit.

Jesus said, "When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men."

Matthew 6:5a

"And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive your sins."

Mark 11:25

9. What attitude should we have when we pray?

We should be both humble and confident.

God said, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Hebrews 4:16

10. Does God give us only those blessings we ask for?

No, God often grants us far more than we ask for or could even imagine.

"[God] 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

Answers To Your Questions About Marriage and the Family

One of the most important areas of Christian living in the sight of God is that of marriage and the family. Read thoughtfully what the Bible says about the proper relationship between husbands and wives and between parents and their children.

1. Where did the idea of marriage come from?

God arranged from the very beginning that one man and one woman should live together in faithfulness and love.

"At the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

Matthew 19:4-6

2. What is the proper relationship between husbands and wives in marriage?

The wife should be subject to her husband and the husband should love his wife just as Christ loved the church, his spiritual bride.

"Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church.... Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."

Ephesians 5:22, 23, 25

3. Is God concerned about the physical (sexual) side of marriage?

Definitely. God requires that both husband and wife should be sensitive to each other's needs and desires.

"The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. The wife's body does not belong to her alone but also to her husband. In the same way, the husband's body does not belong to him alone but also to his wife."

1 Corinthians 7:3,4

4. What does the Bible teach about unfaithfulness in marriage?

God will judge all those who are unfaithful.

"Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral."

Hebrews 13:4

5. What does the Bible teach about divorce?

Whoever divorces his marriage partner and marries someone else commits adultery in God's sight, unless the partner has been unfaithful.

Jesus said, "I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."

Matthew 19:9

6. What should Christian wives do if their husbands are not believers?

They should be submissive to their husbands in all things lawful and continue to live pure and holy lives.

"Wives...be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without talk by the behavior of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives."

1 Peter 3:1,2

7. How should believing husbands treat their wives?

They should treat them with consideration and respect.

"Husbands...be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers."

1 Peter 3:7

8. How should parents deal with their children?

Parents should lovingly bring up their children in the ways of God.

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."

Proverbs 22:6

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

Ephesians 6:4

9. Is it appropriate for parents to discipline their children?

Yes, if the discipline is administered in love.

"Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul." Proverbs 29:17

10. How should children respond to their parents' instruction?

Children should honor and obey their parents.

"Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you." Deuteronomy 5:16a

"Children, obey your parents in everything; for this pleases the Lord." Colossians 3:20

11. What is the most important decision believing parents can make?

To faithfully serve the Lord with their entire family.

"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15b

Answers To Your Questions About Suffering and Trials

Believers will surely experience the love and joy which Jesus came to bring. However, that does not mean that they will never experience suffering or trials or hardship. In fact, there may be times when believers will suffer just because they are believers.

Throughout history, many of the world's greatest Christians have been able to testify to the truth of the Scriptures which say, "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God." (Acts 14:22)

1. Does the Bible teach that believers will be spared from all the suffering and hardship in this life?

No, believers may expect to experience trials of one kind or another.

"Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."
2 Timothy 3:12

Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."
John 16:33b

2. What encouragement does the Bible give to those who suffer trials or persecution?

God promises never to leave us or forsake us.

"The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."
Deuteronomy 31:8

"Cast all your anxiety on him [God] because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

3. What purpose do the trials of believers serve in this life?

Trials help to strengthen character, prove the genuineness of our faith, and lead to future glory.

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."
James 1:2-4

"(Trials) have come so that your faith... may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

1 Peter 1:7

4. What promise is given to those who suffer for Christ's sake?

They will receive a great reward in heaven.

Jesus said, "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven."

Matthew 5:11, 12a

5. What should believers do if they suffer trials or persecution?

They should commit their lives to the Lord, continue to live a Christian life, and concentrate on the glory to come.

"Those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good."

1 Peter 4:19

"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, to what is unseen is eternal."

2 Corinthians 4:17, 18

6. What attitude should believers have toward those who persecute them?

They should love them in Christ, pray for them, and seek to do them good.

Jesus said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:44, 45a

"Do not repay anyone evil for evil... Do not take revenge... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

Romans 12:17, 19, 21

7. Doesn't God care that his people suffer persecution?

He certainly does! But God does not want believers to take revenge; he himself will do what is just and right with those who persecute his people.

"Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written, 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord."

Romans 12:19

8. What comfort do believers have in the midst of their trials and difficulties?

We have the assurance that God is working out everything for the spiritual good of those who love him.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." *Romans 8:28*

Answers To Your Questions About Things To Come

In this present life believers may experience suffering and trials. God never promised that it would be any different. However, in the future it will be different! God has promised his children a glorious future of perfect happiness.

Read with joy what the Bible says about things to come!

1. What is the great hope which every believer has concerning the future?

The return or "second coming" of Jesus Christ.

"We wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ."
Titus 2:13

2. How does the Bible describe this "second coming" of Christ?

Jesus will come with his angels in power and great glory on the clouds of heaven.

"They will see the Son of Man [Jesus] coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other."
Matthew 24:30b-31

3. Who will see Jesus when he comes again?

Everyone!

"Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him."
Revelation 1:7a

4. When is all this going to take place?

No one knows the exact time.

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come."
Matthew 24:42

5. Will believers be completely surprised by Jesus' return?

No. Various signs will point to his coming.

Jesus said, "Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. . . . There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. . . . You will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death. . . . Many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. . . . And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

Matthew 24:4-14

"Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it [Jesus' return] is near, right at the door."

Matthew 24:33

6. How should believers live as they wait for Jesus to return?

They should stay away from every form of evil and live at peace with God.

"You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. . . . Make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him."

2 Peter 3:11b-14

7. What will happen to those people who have died before Jesus comes back?

They will rise from their graves when Jesus comes.

"All who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned."

John 5:28b, 29

8. Will believers have exactly the same bodies they have now?

No, their bodies will be changed so that they become glorious and immortal.

"The body that is sown [in the grave] is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body."

1 Corinthians 15:42b-44

9. What will happen to believers who are still living when Christ returns?

They will suddenly be changed and will rise to meet Christ in the air.

"Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep [die], but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."
1 Corinthians 15:51,52

"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

10. What will Jesus do when he returns to earth?

He will judge everyone who has ever lived.

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people from one another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left."
Matthew 25:31-33

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."
2 Corinthians 5:10

11. What will happen to those who love and serve Jesus in this life?

They will enter the eternal kingdom of glory.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.'"
Matthew 25:34

12. What will happen to those who do not love and serve Jesus?

They will be cast into the eternal fire.

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"
Matthew 25:41

13. What will happen to our present universe at the end of time?

It will be destroyed and replaced with a new heaven and a new earth.

"The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare... That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness."

2 Peter 3:10-13

14. What will life be like for believers in the new world?

Life will be glorious beyond anything we can now imagine.

"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."

1 Corinthians 2:9

"They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

Revelation 21:3b-4

"No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever."

Revelation 22:3-5

Answers To Your Questions About Your Own Salvation

After reading all the questions and answers on the preceding pages, you may still have very important questions concerning your own salvation. You still may not be sure that your own sins have been forgiven. Or you may not be sure that you have personally received the gift of eternal life.

If you have questions about your own salvation, we invite you to experience for yourself the truth of the Bible's teaching about salvation. Confess your sins to God, trust in Jesus Christ for forgiveness, and then, in faith, claim God's promise of forgiveness and eternal life. He will surely give you what he has promised.

In order to help you do this, we invite you to pray sincerely the following prayer—or a similar prayer of your own.

Dear God, I confess that I am a sinner and that I need your forgiveness. I am truly sorry for my sins and humbly ask you to forgive me and cleanse me. I believe that Jesus died on the cross in my place and that he rose again for my salvation. In faith I accept from you the gift of eternal life, and, with your help, I promise to serve you as long as I live. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Bible says, *"To all who received him [Jesus], to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."* *John 1:12*

That's a promise to live by!

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY OF GOD!
