

## Why Should I Put My Faith in Christ?

- ❖ **We have a human problem.** We are separated from a perfect and holy God because all of man is in a state of spiritual death. Evil is not just an entity that exists in our world, it is also *in us*. Because of this, we are drawn to works of darkness—all manner of sin and deception. Romans 3:23; "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Sin's penalty is an eternity spent in hell separated from God.
- ❖ **All of our own efforts fall short** of what He requires in order to be in relationship with Him. Our desperate need is for a completely transformed heart that pursues good and not evil; we also need forgiveness and pardon of our sins. We are utterly helpless, unable to save ourselves.
- ❖ **So we need reconciliation**—a bridge between us and God. The Bible tells us that God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son Jesus to be the sacrifice for our sins; Jesus paid our penalty in full when He died on the cross (see John 3:13-18). God, through Christ Jesus, has made a way for us to be back in right relationship with Him. "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).
- ❖ **Jesus Christ is our bridge to God.** In John 14:6, Jesus says; "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." By repenting of our own sin and rebellion against God, believing in Christ's sacrifice for our sin, and confessing Jesus as Lord, we can be saved from the penalty of sin and reconciled to God. Romans 10:9 says, "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."
- ❖ **Then a miracle happens!** God is faithful to forgive our sins, give us a clean slate and a new, transformed heart, and welcome us into relationship with Him.
- ❖ **The next step is to confess your sins.** Are you willing to follow Jesus and trust Him with your life? As you pray, confess any cyclical sin, addictions, etc., that God by His Holy Spirit brings to your mind. You can let it all go!

## A Prayer of Salvation:

"Heavenly Father, I thank You for Your love for me and for the gift of Your Son, Jesus, to die for all who have sinned. I confess that I have broken Your laws and sinned against You and am in desperate need of a Savior. I now turn away from my sin and turn to You, and I put my faith and trust in Jesus and His work on the cross, where He died in my place and was then raised from the dead that I might have new life in Him. I ask You to forgive me of my sins and give me eternal life. I realize that You forgive me, not because of anything I've done, but because of Jesus' sacrifice and my faith and trust in His work alone. Help me now to grow in intimacy with You and Your Word, and give me a heart to share Your love and forgiveness with others. In Jesus' name, Amen."

**Praise God!** All of heaven rejoices with you today!

"Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10).

## Your next steps as a disciple (follower) of Christ:

1. **Share:** Tell others what He has done for you! Jesus just saved you from eternity in hell and separation from your loving Heavenly Father; this is GOOD NEWS! "And He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again" (2 Corinthians 5:15).
2. **Pray:** (Teach them to talk to God) You have just entered into the most important relationship of your life. Make talking and listening to God a high priority. He wants to spend time with you!
3. **Read:** (Make sure they have a Bible) The Bible is God's living word. God speaks to us through it, and He calls us to obey what He says by His Spirit. Believe every word you read! "For the word of God is full of living power. It is sharper than the sharpest knife, cutting deep into our innermost thoughts and desires. It exposes us for what we really are"(Hebrews 4:6).
4. **Connect:** You need a Bible-believing church to help you learn about God and find others who believe what you believe and will help you grow as a disciple of Christ. "God places the lonely in families; He sets the prisoners free and gives them joy" (Psalm 68:6).