

Christianity

Pure and Simple



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New International Version (NIV)

The Living Bible (TLB)

New Living Translation (NLT)

The Message (TM)

New King James Version (NKJ)

Christianity – Pure and Simple (\$10)

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What is the Truth?



What is the TRUTH?

TRUTH is the way something really is.
Only GOD knows all truth.

Who is GOD?

GOD is One SPIRIT Who Exists in 3 PERSONS:

- **GOD the Father**
- **GOD the Son, Jesus Christ**
- **GOD the Holy Spirit**

God is the Almighty Creator and Designer of everything. He has always been alive and always will be. His presence is everywhere at all times. He knows every detail about everything and everyone. He is the eternal Spirit of LOVE and TRUTH.

God's Book of Truth

The Bible is the only book in the world that God Himself claims to have written by divine inspiration through men. God says it contains His eternal TRUTH and WILL. The Bible claims to be the Word of God which is ALIVE and supernaturally POWERFUL. Its divine LIGHT exposes what is false and judges the secret motives and attitudes of the human heart.

All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.

Psalm 119:160 (NIV)

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

Is GOD Really the Author of the Bible?

- **Who but God** could have written the ingredients used to make human bodies? It took scientists until recent centuries to discover that human bodies consist of the same chemical elements as the “dust of the ground,” just as God said in the Bible.
- **Who but God** could have written the history of this world? The Bible records details of its creation (Genesis 1, 2), its current condition and events (Luke 21:5-36), and its end (Revelation 21).
- **Who but God** could have spelled out moral laws that would keep individuals, families, societies, and nations living in harmony and peace? History illustrates that those who attempted to defy God’s principles and laws have come to ruin.
- **Who but God** could have written a book introducing *Himself* to mankind? People of all walks of life, all ages, and all cultures have met the living Creator God through believing the truth about Him as it is written in the Bible.
- **Who but God** could have written with authority on eternal, invisible things – like heaven, hell, angels and demons?
- **Who but God** could have given instructions on how humans can avoid hell and receive the gift of eternal life in heaven?

Choosing Truth

The Bible states God's truth as FACT – pure, simple, eternal and unchanging. He gave every person the right to choose to believe it by faith or not believe it. Those who choose not to believe what God says is true, must depend on ever-changing manmade philosophies, theories, opinions, assumptions, and myths to tell them what life is all about.

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.
Colossians 2:8 (NIV)

Changing God's Truth

God strictly warns those who would dare to alter His Word of Truth. Although the Bible has been translated into many languages and written in various versions to make it easier to understand, its eternal TRUTH is forbidden to be changed in any way. Those who tamper with the TRUTH in God's Word will answer to God Himself:

I solemnly declare to everyone who reads this book: If anyone adds anything to what is written here, God shall add to him the plagues described in this book. And if anyone subtracts any part of these prophecies, God shall take away his share in the Tree of Life, and in the Holy City...

Revelation 22:18, 19 (TLB)

Pure and Simple
The Bible is God's written TRUTH.

Which came first?

**The Chicken
or
the Egg?**



God Answers Questions About Life

- How did life on earth begin?
- Which came first, the chicken or the egg?
- What set the first measure of time, days, weeks, months, seasons, and years?
- How did the institutions of marriage, family, work, and government get established worldwide?
- Why are there so many different nationalities and languages?

GOD recorded His answers to these questions in His Book, the Bible. In Genesis, He tells how He created all things and how He established the framework of life on earth.

In the beginning

God created the heavens and the earth. 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 1:1, 2 (NIV)

Day 1 Light

God ordered LIGHT and separated the darkness. He called the light DAY and the darkness NIGHT.

Day 2 The Heavens

God ordered space between the waters above the earth and on the earth. He named the space THE HEAVENS or SKY.

Day 3
Land and Seas
Seed-bearing Plants and Trees

God gathered the waters on the earth and made SEAS; and dry LAND appeared. Then God ordered seed-bearing PLANTS and TREES to grow on the land.

Day 4
Sun, Moon, Stars

God created the sun, moon, and stars to give light to earth both day and night. God also used the sun and the moon to mark earth's DAYS, MONTHS, SEASONS, and YEARS.

Day 5
Fish and Birds

God created every kind of FISH and BIRD, and He commanded them to reproduce more of their own kind.

Day 6
Animals and Insects
Humans in God's Own Image

God made every species of LAND ANIMALS and INSECTS. Last of all, He made HUMANS like Himself, for the specific reason of loving them like His children. God created the earth and everything on it for His children, and He gave them dominion over the earth.

Day 7
Rest, Week

God finished creating and organizing life on earth in six days. On the seventh day, He rested. God established the seven-day WEEK, which includes one day to REST.

Human Theories on How Life Began on Earth *without God*

Theory of Reincarnation

Nothing created life.
Life always existed.
When something dies,
it keeps coming back to earth in another body.
God doesn't exist.

Darwin's Theory of Evolution

Life started itself.
One cell happened to come alive.
After billions of years,
that one cell evolved into plants,
which evolved into animals,
which evolved into apes,
which evolved into humans.
Life will keep on evolving,
as the strong ones overtake the weak ones.
Life has no purpose and no meaning.

Pure and Simple
God created everyone and everything.

Differences Between Humans and Apes



God's Original Purpose for Humans

God made humans spiritual beings like Himself and crowned them with His glorious DIVINE LIFE. He loved them as His children and wanted them to love Him as their "Father." God gave the earth to humans and gave them charge over it.

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Genesis 1:26 (NKJ)

What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor.

Hebrews 2:6b-7 (NIV)

How are Humans like God?

God is an invisible, eternal SPIRIT and SOUL. Humans have a visible body that houses their invisible, eternal SPIRIT and SOUL.

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 1:27 (NKJ)

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 (NIV)

SPIRIT

The SPIRIT is a person's spiritual HEART.

- **Conscience**
- **Intuition**
- **Knowledge of God**

Deep within the heart of every person is a “place” that God made for Himself to live in and talk with His children. Humans were created to have an intimate spirit-to-spirit relationship with their Creator and to live by the power of His divine life within them. In the beginning, the first created humans, Adam and Eve, enjoyed walking and talking with God every day.

SOUL

The SOUL is a person's SELF.

- **Will**
- **Mind**
- **Emotions**

The soul is the invisible part of humans that gives them their identity and makes them individuals. God did not make humans robots or puppets. He gave each person a mind and a *free will*, and made them responsible for their choices in life.

BODY

The BODY is the PHYSICAL part of a person.

- **Flesh**
- **Blood**
- **Bones**
- **Senses: sight, sound, touch, smell, taste**

The body consists of trillions of complex cells that work together to make every function of our body run smoothly. Each cell has specific tasks to enable us to breathe, eat, digest, etc. God made the human body for our eternal spirit and soul to live in, while on earth.

Differences Between Humans and Apes

SPIRIT

Humans have an eternal spirit like God and can know and love God personally. God gave each person gifts and talents through which they can live fulfilling lives that honor Him as the “Divine Giver” of every good gift. Through their spirit, every person can know God and discover His unique plan and purpose for their life.

Apes don’t have a spirit. They were not created to know God personally.

SOUL

God gave every person a soul with a free will and a mind, so they can *choose* what they want to do.

Apes don’t have a soul. Their choices are mainly directed by instincts.

BODY

Both humans and apes have physical bodies created by God from the dust of the earth. All bodies will return to dust after physical death. But when a human body dies, its eternal SOUL and SPIRIT will go on to live forever in either heaven or hell. Before Judgment Day, God will resurrect every person’s dead body. Those who go to heaven will live in their glorified body, like Jesus’ resurrected body.

(I Corinthians 15:42-49)

Pure and Simple

God made you *like Himself and for Himself.*

The Passion of God's Love



The Passion of God's Love

God's Passionate Love for Humans

God made humans to be the supreme object of His divine love. He created the world for humans and made glorious plans for each one of us.

Long ago, even before he made the world, God chose us to be his very own, through what Christ would do for us; he decided then to make us holy in his eyes, without a single fault—we who stand before him covered in his love.
Ephesians 1:4 (TLB)

How precious it is, Lord, to realize that you are thinking about me constantly! I can't even count how many times a day your thoughts turn toward me. And when I waken in the morning, you are still thinking of me!
Psalm 139:17, 18 (TLB)

Only the Best for Humans

God gave humans a *free will* and freedom to choose. He gave us commandments to help us make choices that would guide us into a life filled with love, peace, joy and purpose. His greatest commandment is for the greatest fulfillment that we can ever experience.

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment."
Matthew 22:37, 38 (NIV)

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you," says the LORD, "thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."
Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJ)

God's Love Rejected

God's purpose for creating humans was simply to love and to be loved by us. But every person turned away from God, rejecting His love, and cutting off all ties with Him.

We are the ones who strayed away like sheep! We, who left God's paths to follow our own.
Isaiah 53:6a (TLB)

The Passion of God the Father

God's extravagant love for us caused Him to sacrifice His only Son on the cross to atone for our iniquities with his blood.

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.
I John 4:10 (NIV)

In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.
Hebrews 9:22 (NIV)

The Passion of Jesus Christ

Even though we rejected him, Jesus died for us. The passion of his love for us caused him to choose to suffer and die in our place, not wanting anyone to perish in hell.

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.
Romans 5:8 (TLB)

We despised him and rejected him—a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way when he went by. He was despised and we didn't care. Yet it was our grief he bore, our sorrows that weighed him down...But he was wounded and bruised for our sins.
Isaiah 53:3-5a (TLB)

Love's Second Chance

With his shed blood, death and resurrection, Jesus made it possible for humans to have eternal life with him.

Now he stands at the door of every heart to offer his undying love, forgiveness, and eternal life to anyone who would open the door and receive him as Savior. He longs to live in us and relate to us heart to heart, as God planned for every person from the beginning.

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”
Revelation 3:20 (NIV)

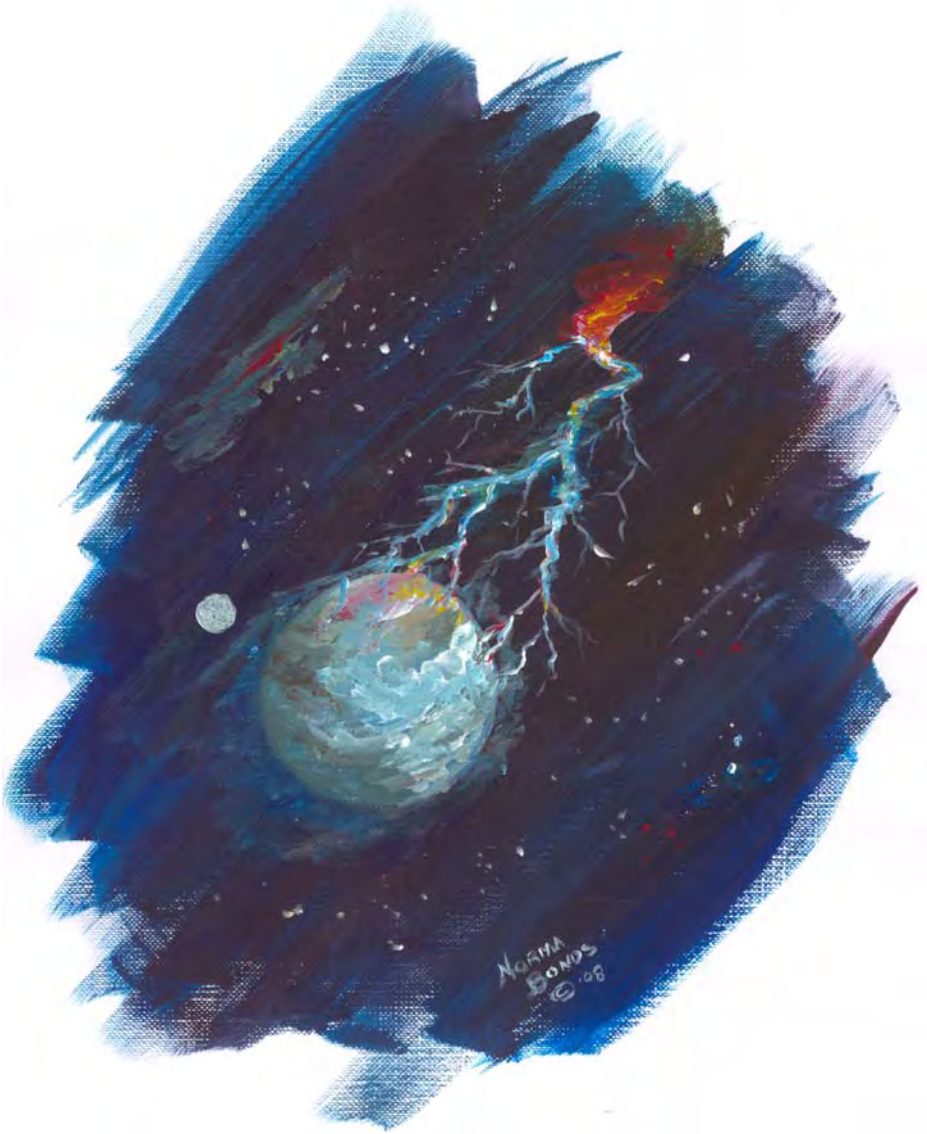
Love's Greatest Tragedies

- **The greatest tragedy for God** is to love His human children with all His heart and not to be loved in return.
- **The greatest tragedy for humans** is to live and die and be separated from God forever, never to experience the passion of His love.

May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love. And may you have the power to understand...how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it.
Ephesians 3:17b-19a (NLT)

Pure and Simple
God loves you with all His heart.

Sin and Death



The Origin of SIN

Sin Originated with the DEVIL

Isaiah 14:12-15

Originally the devil was a glorious angel in heaven named Lucifer. But he craved for more glory for himself. Wanting to be “as God,” Lucifer tried to promote himself above the throne of God. One-third of heaven’s angels joined him in rebellion against God; and God cast Lucifer and “his angels” out of heaven. Lucifer became Satan the devil, and his fallen angels became demons. They now live on planet earth and seek to gain human followers through supernatural deceptions. The devil is:

- **Thief and Destroyer** (John 10:10)
- **Deceiver of nations** (Revelation 20:3)
- **Ruler of the Kingdom of Darkness** (Colossians 1:13)
- **Angel of Light in disguise** (II Corinthians 11:14)
- **Murderer** (John 8:44)
- **Father of Lies** (John 8:44)

“The devil was a murderer from the beginning, not holding the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”
John 8:44b (NIV)

The Sin of Humans

Genesis 3

The first created humans, Adam and Eve, were deceived by the devil’s lies and chose to eat the fruit that God had forbidden them to eat. Believing that the fruit would make them as wise as God and tempted by their lust for self-glory and independence from God, they willfully disobeyed God. Through this SIN of rebellion and pride against God, humans left God’s spiritual Kingdom of Light and Life and became subjects in the devil’s Kingdom of Darkness and Death.

Everyone Sinned Against GOD

Sin first polluted the human race through Adam and Eve. But since then, every person has also chosen to live independently from God and to live for self-glory.

*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
Romans 3:23 (NIV)*

The Torment of Sin

God hates sin, because it destroys the spirit, soul, body, and life of His human children. Sin depraves and torments the human conscience and soul. It imprisons people in guilt, shame, loneliness, insecurity, rejection, anger and fear. It gives Satan the power to hold humans in slavery by the *fear of death* (Hebrews 2:14, 15).

*Don't you realize that you can choose your own master? You can choose sin (with death) or else obedience (with acquittal). The one to whom you offer yourself—he will take you and be your master and you will be his slave.
Romans 6:16 (TLB)*

The Cost of Sin

Sin makes us spiritual prisoners of Satan and sentences us to eternal death. Jesus came to earth to obey the will of his Father to pay the death penalty for our sins. There was no other way and no other Person but the sinless Son of God who could rescue us from our bondage to sin, Satan, and eternal death.

Jesus' prayer to Father God on the night before his crucifixion: *“My Father! If it is possible, let this cup be taken from me. But I want your will, not mine.”*

Matthew 26:39 (TLB)

For the wages of sin is death.

Romans 6:23a (NIV)

Sin's Affect on Humans

SPIRIT (heart)

Sin “evicted” God from His “dwelling place” within human hearts. This caused the human spirit to become DEAD TO GOD and EMPTY. No other relationship, material things, or activities can satisfy the empty place in the human heart that was made to be occupied by God alone.

SOUL (self)

Through sin, humans became “lost souls,” disconnected from God. Lost souls are not sure where they came from, what their purpose on earth is, and where they are going after death. Their WILL is resistant to God’s will and often follows the choices of their changing EMOTIONS. Their MIND is confused about God and creates its own ideas about Him:

- Humanism – humans are gods
- Atheism – there is no God
- Pantheism – everything is God
- Religions – philosophies about God
- Relativism – Satan and God are the same
- Idolatry – worship of things in place of God

BODY

Human bodies were created to live forever, drawing from God’s ETERNAL LIFE within them. But when sin severed God’s LIFE from them, sickness, pain, aging, and DEATH took over. Sin also cursed the earth with natural disasters, thorns and poisons.

Pure and Simple

Sin is the choice to leave God out of life.

Who Jesus Is



King of Kings and Lord of Lords

WHO JESUS IS

GOD the Son Creator and Sustainer of Everything

Jesus Christ always existed as GOD the Son. He created everything in the universe, visible and invisible, physical and spiritual. He holds everything together and sustains everything by his power.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:15-17 (NIV)

GOD in Human Flesh

Centuries before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, prophets foretold over 100 details about God's Messiah who would come to earth to save people from their sins. Every prophecy of his miraculous virgin birth, life, ministry, death on the cross and resurrection was fulfilled.

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel which means God with us."

Matthew 1:22, 23 (NIV)

Though he was God, Jesus Christ did not demand and cling to his rights as God, but laid aside his mighty power and glory, taking the disguise of a slave and becoming like men. And he humbled himself even further, going so far as actually to die a criminal's death on a cross.

Philippians 2:6-8 (TLB)

Crucified Son of God

God sacrificed His sinless Son Jesus to pay for the sins of all mankind. Bearing our sins, Jesus was judged and condemned in our place. After he was beaten, spit upon, and mocked, he was crucified on a cross for us.

(Pilate) had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. After they had mocked him...they led him away to crucify him.

Matthew 27:26b, 31 (NIV)

Risen Savior

Jesus was buried in a tomb for three days. Then he bodily rose from the dead. Alive and victorious over death, hell, and the grave, he made it possible for anyone who believes in him as Savior to be forgiven by God and to be granted the gift of eternal life with Him in heaven.

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die like everyone else, will live again. They are given eternal life for believing in me and will never perish." *John 11:25, 26 (NLT)*

Judge, King, and LORD of All

Because Jesus obeyed God the Father and willingly laid down his life to save God's beloved human children, His Father made him the final JUDGE and eternal KING and LORD of all.

Yet it was because of this that God raised him up to the heights of heaven and gave him a name which is above every other name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. *Philippians 2:9-11 (TLB)*

Only Mediator to God

*For there is one God and one Mediator
who can reconcile God and people.
He is the man Christ Jesus.
He gave his life to purchase freedom for
everyone.*

1 Timothy 2:5-6a (NLT)

Only Way to Heaven

*Jesus told him,
“I am the way, the truth, and the life.
No one can come to the Father
except through me”.*

John 14:6 (NLT)

Almighty God

*“I am the Alpha and the Omega--
the beginning and the end,”
says the Lord God.
“I am the one who is,
who always was,
and who is still to come,
the Almighty One.”*

Revelation 1:8 (NLT)

Pure and Simple
Jesus is GOD.

How to Be Born Again



Necessity of Spiritual Rebirth

The human spirit died when sin cut it off from God's divine life. Every person needs to be spiritually born again, not because we are spiritually BAD, but because we are spiritually DEAD. Good behavior cannot bring a dead spirit back to life.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world.
Ephesians 2:1, 2a (NIV)

Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives new life from heaven. So don't be surprised at my statement that you must be born again.
John 3:6, 7 (NLT)

Alive with Christ

After Jesus died, the Spirit of God raised him from the dead and made his spirit come alive again. That same Holy Spirit will come to live in our heart when we receive Jesus as Savior, and make our spirit alive again also.

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as he raised Christ from the dead, he will give life to your mortal body by this same Spirit living within you.
Romans 8:11 (NLT)

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 2:4, 5 (NIV)

A Prayer to be Born Again

Dear Jesus, Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Please come into my heart and forgive me of all my sins. Thank you for the gift of new life with you. Amen

HOW to be Born Again

Repent of Sins

Repentance is acknowledging our sins and turning to God for forgiveness.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

I John 1:9, 10 (NIV)

Believe in Jesus

Believing is an action of the HEART and WILL. With our WILL we choose to believe that Jesus died for us. By faith, we open our HEART and invite Jesus in to be our personal Savior.

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 10:10 (NIV)

Receive a Miracle

The miracle of being born again is a GIFT of God's MERCY and GRACE. We can't do anything to earn or deserve it. But anyone who by faith receives Jesus as Savior, will instantly be given the gift of new spiritual Life from God.

Anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

Romans 10:13 (TLB)

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

Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)

What's New When You're Born Again

New Birth

But to all who believed Jesus and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn! This is not a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan—this rebirth comes from God.

John 1:12, 13 (NLT)

New Person Inside

When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same any more. A new life has begun!

II Corinthians 5:17 (TLB)

New Ownership

You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

I Corinthians 6:20 (NIV)

The Spirit's seal upon us means that God has already purchased us and that he guarantees to bring us to himself.

Ephesians 1:14b (TLB)

New Name in Heaven's "Book of Life"

"Rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Luke 10:20b (NIV)

New Eternal Life

Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I John 5:10a, 11 (NIV)

Pure and Simple

You must be born again to go to heaven.

Following Jesus



Following Jesus

Following Jesus is a process of learning to love, trust and obey him more and more. As we persevere in this endeavor, the Holy Spirit continually transforms our soul to become more and more like Jesus. The goal of following Jesus is to become “one” with him, united in his joy, love, peace, and purpose.

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

John 15:9-11 (NIV)

Choosing to Follow Jesus

When we invited Jesus into our heart as Savior, our spirit was born of God forever. But following Jesus is *daily choosing* to set aside our own will, to let God do His will through our life. It requires surrendering our life to Him, renewing our mind with His truth, and following His plan for our life by the power of the Holy Spirit.

“If any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow me. If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find true life.”

Matthew 16:24b, 25 (NLT)

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12:2a (NIV)

Follow Love

Those who follow Jesus share his compassion for lost souls who are destined for eternity in hell. Jesus commissioned his followers to go tell the whole world the Good News that everyone can go to heaven by believing in him. He poured his love into our hearts and gave us spiritual gifts to enable us to lead lost souls to him by the power of the Holy Spirit.

And then he told them, "You are to go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere." Mark 16:15 (TLB)

God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Romans 5:5b (NIV)

Jesus called out, "Come along with me and I will show you how to fish for the souls of men!"

Matthew 4:19 (TLB)

Follow Truth

Following Jesus requires following what God's Word of Truth says about him. It is vital to faithfully attend a church that preaches the Bible as absolute truth. People who don't know God's Word and don't obey it are in danger of following lies about Jesus. Jesus never said he was a religious leader. He lived, died, and rose from the dead claiming to be GOD.

You seem so gullible: you believe whatever anyone tells you even if he is preaching about another Jesus than the one we preach, or a different spirit than the Holy Spirit you received, or shows you a different way to be saved. You swallow it all.

II Corinthians 11:4 (TLB)

Let us not neglect our church meetings, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.

Hebrews 10:25 (TLB)

Follow God's Plan

Humans were created to glorify God and to enjoy him forever. To accomplish this, God has a unique, individual plan for each life. This plan requires using our God-given abilities to glorify Him by the power of the Holy Spirit within us. Following God's plan helps us get to know and love Jesus more intimately and makes us more like him. God's plan for us fills our life with divine adventure, joy and peace, and makes our God-given dreams come true.

"I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD Almighty."

Zechariah 4:6b (NIV)

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

John 10:10b (NKJ)

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1:8, 9 (NIV)

Pure and Simple

If you follow Jesus, you will become more like him.

Keys to Praying

Prayers That God Hears



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Locked Doors to Prayer

No Door – No Key

The key that unlocks the door of communication with God is Jesus Himself. Before Jesus died for us, there was NO DOOR into God's presence.

“I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved.” John 10:9a (NKJ)

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men. I Timothy 2:5-6a (NIV)

Blocked Prayers

God does not hear our prayers when we have sin in our heart. One sin is *unforgiveness*, which turns to anger and resentment, causing major prayer blockage. Jesus died to forgive people of sins. When we refuse to forgive those who have hurt and offended us, God will not forgive us either.

Human hearts have no power to forgive others. The only way we can forgive is to *choose* to forgive and ask the Holy Spirit to enable us to forgive by His power in us. Forgiveness is a choice, not a feeling. When we choose to forgive and allow God to be the Judge, He will also be our Avenger and Vindicator.

“If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Matthew 6:14, 15 (NLT)

The Wicked Man Who Would Not Forgive

(Matthew 18:21-28)

Doors to God's Heart

Place of Prayer

The “secret place” God created for us to meet with Him is deep within our hearts. We approach it by turning our mind inward into our heart where God lives and waits to talk with us. We enter it through the doors of thankfulness, praise, and honor to Him. In the stillness of our heart, we can sense His presence.

My heart has heard you say, “Come and talk with me, O my people.” And my heart responds, “Lord, I am coming.”

Psalm 27:8 (TLB)

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name.

Psalm 100:4 (NLT)

Be still, and know that I am God.

Psalm 46:10a (NIV)

Answers to Prayer

God wants us to talk with Him about everything. He “speaks” to us by His Spirit and Truth. The Holy Spirit within our heart helps us to “understand” and “discern” what God is saying to us. When we live in God’s love and truth, He grants us whatever we ask.

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs and don't forget to thank him for his answers. If you do this you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand.

Philippians 4:6-7a (TLB)

“But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon.”

John 15:7 (TM)

The Lord's Model Prayer

“Our Father in heaven,
may your name be honored.
May your Kingdom come soon.
May your will be done here on earth,
just as it is in heaven.
Give us our food for today,
and forgive us our sins,
just as we have forgiven those
who have sinned against us.
And don't let us yield to temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.”

Matthew 6:9-13 (NLT)

Jesus' Final Prayer from the Cross

“Father, forgive them,
for they do not know what they are doing.”

Luke 23:34 (NIV)

Pure and Simple
Prayer is a heart-to-heart talk with God.

Where is Your Treasure?



Where is Your Treasure?

Our treasure is what our heart values and loves first and most. It fills our thoughts and causes us to sacrifice other things to obtain and keep it.

*For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.*

Matthew 6:21 (NIV)

Humans are God's Treasures

God loved us first and most, when He sacrificed His only Son to die for our sins. Jesus loved us first and most, when he laid down his life to save ours. Each person's worth and value comes from the fact that God considers us worth saving and loving.

*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 (NIV)

GOD Wants to Be Our Treasure

God wants to be the first and most loved in our life.

*Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with
all your heart, soul, and mind. This is the
first and greatest commandment."*

Matthew 22:37, 38 (TLB)

*"Anyone who loves his father or mother more
than me is not worthy of me; anyone who
loves his son or daughter more than me is
not worthy of me."*

Matthew 10:37 (NIV)

*"But seek first the kingdom of God and His
righteousness, and all these things shall be
added to you."*

Matthew 6:33 (NKJ)

Two Kinds of Christians

Not every Christian loves God most. Many Christians are glad that they will go to heaven after they die, but their hearts love things of this world more than they love God. These are carnal Christians.

Christians Who Love God Most

Christians who love God most are devoted to Jesus as *Lord* and center of their lives. They enjoy living for the glory of God by doing His will on earth and leading others to Jesus.

Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
I Corinthians 10:31b (NIV)

Now set your sights on the rich treasures and joys of heaven where Christ sits beside God in the place of honor and power.

Colossians 3:1b (TLB)

Christians Who Love the World Most

Carnal Christians love the world most and are devoted to making “self” comfortable, happy and important on earth. Worldly things distract the SOUL from following God and keep it unfulfilled and wanting more.

Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father.

Practically everything that goes on in the world—wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important—has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him.

The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out—but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity.

I John 2:15-17 (TM)

“What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?”

Matthew 16:26a (NIV)

Eternal Treasures

Eternal treasures are the rewards that God has stored up in heaven for the good deeds a Christian does on earth. Every Christian will appear before **The Judgment Seat of Christ** to give an account of what they did with their life, and be rewarded or not rewarded for their deeds.

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.

II Corinthians 5:10 (NIV)

“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

Mathew 6:20 (NIV)

Rewards for Kind Deeds

“For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.”

Mark 9:41 (NKJ)

Rewards for Quality Work

His work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light.

I Corinthians 3:13a (NIV)

No Rewards for Self-centered Motives

“Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 6:1 (NIV)

Pure and Simple

Your treasure is what your heart loves most.

The Final Judgment



Judgment Follows Death

God states in the Bible that humans die once and then the judgment. The Bible does not support the theories of soul sleep, purgatory, reincarnation, or extinction after physical death.

*...it is appointed for men to die once,
but after this the judgment.*

Hebrews 9:27 (NKJ)

What happens immediately after physical death?

Paradise (with Jesus)

The eternal soul and spirit of people who have been “born again” will immediately be with Jesus in Paradise. There, they will also be with other believers who had died before them. After Jesus gives rewards to his faithful followers at the “Judgment Seat of Christ,” all believers will enter their eternal “home” in Heaven.

*We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to
be absent from the body and to be present
with the Lord.* *II Corinthians 5:8 (NKJ)*

To the repentant criminal on the cross,
Jesus replied: *“Today you will be with me in
Paradise. This is a solemn promise.”*

Luke 23:43 (TLB)

Hades (Realm of the Dead)

The eternal soul and spirit of people who rejected God’s only sacrifice for their sins will immediately go to Hades. Hades is a place of torment where the dead will wait for Judgment Day.

Luke 16:19-31 records a story of two men who died. One went to Hades; the other went to Paradise.

The Final Judgment

The Great White Throne Judgment

The final Judgment is only for those who suppressed the instinctive knowledge of God in their hearts and rejected the sacrifice of His only Son who died to save them. These souls will face judgment for their sins.

For the truth about God is known to them instinctively; God has put this knowledge in their hearts. Since earliest times men have seen the earth and sky and all God made, and have known of his existence and great eternal power. So they will have no excuse (when they stand before God at Judgment Day). Yes, they knew about him all right, but they wouldn't admit it or worship him or even thank him for all his daily care.

Romans 1:19-21 (TLB)

*And I saw a **great white throne** and the one who sat upon it, from whose face the earth and sky fled away, but they found no place to hide.*

I saw the dead, great and small, standing before God; and The Books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to the things written in The Books, each according to the deeds he had done. The oceans surrendered the bodies buried in them; and the earth and the underworld gave up the dead in them. Each was judged according to his deeds.

Revelation 20:11-13 (TLB)

Hell (The Lake of Fire)

And Death and Hades were thrown into the Lake of Fire. This is the Second Death—the Lake of Fire. And if anyone's name was not found recorded in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the Lake of Fire.

Revelation 20:14, 15 (TLB)

Heaven (Home with God)

Heaven is a glorious place that God prepared for His human children to spend eternity with Him. Hell was created for the devil and his demons as a place of eternal separation from God. However, hell also became the eternal home of humans who chose to live independently from God on earth.

Until a person takes their last breath on earth and enters into eternity, God tries to “woo” them to Himself. But ultimately, God will grant their final choice. Those who welcomed Jesus into their hearts as Savior will spend eternity with God in heaven. Those who rejected God and His Son will spend eternity in hell separated from Him forever.

He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

II Peter 3:9 (NIV)

This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice and hold fast to him.

Deuteronomy 30:19, 20a (NIV)

A Prayer for Choosing Life with God

Dear Jesus, Please come into my life and be my Savior and LORD. I want to live for you on earth and be with you forever in heaven. Amen

Pure and Simple

Heaven is God’s choice for you. Hell is a human choice.

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