



Congratulations!

When you prayed to accept Christ as Lord of your life, and trusted in Him, God forgave your sins immediately!

That is what Jesus said in John 5:24: "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." God freely forgave you because of your faith in Jesus and because you sincerely repented: "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." (Eph. 2:8-9)

However, as a new believer, you need to be careful, because Jesus said new believers will go through a time of testing, and those that are weak will fall away: "They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away." (Luke 8:13)

Falling away is a serious matter. Jesus said that those who turn away will not go to heaven. "If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned....He who stands firm to the end will be saved." (John 15:6, Matt. 24:13)

Why do people fall away from God? Jesus said they last only a short time because "they have no root...When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away." Here's how you can develop spiritual roots to keep from falling away, and become a strong, happy Christian:

- **Read the Bible daily.** God speaks to us through the Bible. We suggest you start in the New Testament with Matthew and read a little each day until you reach the end. Then read the Old Testament. "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 Tim 3:16-17)
- **Pray every day.** Pray from your heart. Use the Lord's prayer as a model to help you get started. The Lord's prayer is in Matt. 6:9-13.
- **Meet at least weekly with other Christians.** The Bible says, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Heb. 10:25)
- **Be baptized in water.** Jesus said, "Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved." (Mark 16:16). The apostle Peter said, "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." Baptism shows God and the world that we are serious about our decision to follow Christ.



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It is the proof of our commitment.

• **Ask God to baptize you in the Holy Spirit.** Jesus said “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you...” (Acts 1:8. See also 1 Cor. 14:4, Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4,5,8), Matt. 3:11, Luke 11:9,13). When you receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, God will give you the same spiritual gifts He gave to the apostles in Acts 2:1-4. See also Acts 8:14-17, 9:44-48, Acts 19:6, 1 Cor. 14). Jesus and Paul said it is for all believers: (Mark 16:17, 1 Cor. 14:5).

• **Tell others what God has done for you** (Luke 8:39). Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mr 16:15) and “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Mt. 28:19-20)

• **When you sin, confess your sins to God,** trust in His forgiveness and don't condemn yourself, but instead determine to keep growing in holiness. 1 John 1:9 says: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

• **Grow in holiness (sanctification).** Turn away from things that hinder your walk with God. The Bible says, “Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.” (Heb 12:14) “Let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.” (2Co 7:1). “Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Eph. 4:24). Walking in holiness means you may have to choose different friends. “Bad company corrupts good character.” (1 Cor. 15:33) You will also want to get rid of any possessions or habits in your life that tempt you to sin. God is ready to help you!

• **Be ready for the return of the Lord.** Jesus said, “So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.” (Mt 24:44). “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 together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.” (1 Thes. 4:16-17)

• **Depend on the Bible,** not on traditions or feelings, to guide you. “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” (Ps 119:105)

• **Avoid false teachers and cults.** For instance, the teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons (Latter Day Saints) are not considered Christian by any other church. Also avoid any church that denies the divinity of Christ, or that rejects the authority of the Bible.

If you have access to the internet, you can get more help or information and can find a church in your area at <http://www.ag.org>

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