



Craig Church™

MINISTRIES



LIFE WITH GOD

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO
FOLLOWING JESUS



A NEW LIFE



When we put our faith in Jesus Christ, everything starts over. We are born again, *“not of the will of man, but of God”* (John 1:13). Apart from all work we could do, we are changed forever, and we have passed from death to life. **Now, it is our goal to walk with God, following Jesus and willingly letting Him direct our lives.** If you have placed all of your faith in Jesus Christ alone, then *“you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God”* (Colossians 3:3). **God is outside of time and can do impossible things.** When we believe, our old sinful lives that kept us separated from God our Father are “crucified” with Jesus, leaving nothing but His perfect life to stand for us, and our spirits are “resurrected” with Christ, meaning we have been given a new start with God.

This is why God urges people to be baptized in the name of Jesus as a first step of obedience to Him when we believe, because **being baptized in water is a symbol of our spirit getting baptized into the identity of Jesus.** *“We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead... we too might walk in newness of life”* (Romans 6:4).

THE GOSPEL

- *“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23).
- *“The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 6:23).
- *“But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:8).
- *“Christ died for our sins...He was buried...He was raised on the third day”* (1 Cor. 15:3-4)
- *“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).
- *“By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God”* (Ephesians 2:8).

‘Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.’

2 Corinthians 5:17





LIVING BY FAITH



When we trust Jesus' finished work, God Himself, the Holy Spirit, comes to live in us. Jesus promises this: *"If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him"* (John 14:23). Though we can't understand it, **when God comes to make His home in us, He forms a binding agreement with us**, promising to give Himself entirely to us and expecting us to give ourselves entirely to Him in relationship. This forever bonds God to us, and His life fills us with life: *"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies"* (Romans 8:11). This Spirit provides us with all that we need in life, overcomes every difficulty we face, and carries us to eternity to be with God and His people always in a place without crying or pain.

"As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him" (Colossians 2:6). **Just like this new life starts with Jesus' work and not our own, we live it day to day by His strength alone**, as God's Word says, *"it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure"* (Phil. 2:13).

We live this way by choosing to surrender to God's purposes for this new life, praying as Jesus did to the Father, *"Not my will, but Yours be done,"* and letting His Spirit lead us and provide the power to change. *"Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness... And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions"* (Galatians 5:16-23).

This all starts with [prayer](#). **When we pray, we share our concerns about all of life with God, trusting Him to do what we can't**, and we invite Him to speak to us and guide us. The more we do this, the closer we will be to God.

"Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Hebrews 11:6

TRUST THE WORD



*"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). **To connect with God and be changed continually, we need to listen to Him speak to us and obey what He says.** This is why we daily feed on the truth of the Bible, reading or listening with God in mind. It's important to involve God in the process, remembering that it's His Word and trusting Him to open our eyes to understand what we read.*



"But He answered and said, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "

Matthew 4:4

FAMILY ON MISSION



When we reconcile with God our Father, He adopts us into His family: *"The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him" (Romans 8:16-17).* This family is diverse, made up of all sorts of people from all across the world, united by blood: Jesus' blood that covers sins. And this family has a mission, to represent God on the earth and tell others of His love, leading them to reconcile with Him and share in what we are experiencing. *"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).* The Christian life is not just personal, so we must connect with others who will help us serve Jesus and fulfill His mission. **Together, believers form what is called "church."**



TOOLS FOR GROWTH



As you begin this journey with Jesus, you will constantly need help from others who have walked with Him, as the Bible says, "...let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another" (Hebrews 10:24-25). God has prepared this community for you, and He wants you to be a vital part of it. Most likely, God has already placed some Christians in your life either now or in the past that you can reach out to so that you can start to live as church together. However, you can also try the following "church finder" web sites:

- churches.goingfarther.net
- 9marks.org/church-search
- thegospelcoalition.org/churches
- acts29.com/find-churches
- heartcrymissionary.com/church-finder

There are false churches out there that don't let the Bible be their only source of truth, so guidance can help. If you want to talk to someone about finding a church, you may call or text 1-336-860-1668.

Now that you have trusted the Gospel, the Bible says, "The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (John 14:26). Everything you need can be found in the God who has come to live with you. If you trust this, you can overcome any obstacle. Having tools to help you follow God, however, can help. The following sites should help you with some of the basic challenges that most new believers will face:

- [Got Questions](#) – Find out what the Bible says about nearly anything. You can also ask a question.
- [Peace With God](#) – Hear a video presentation of the Good News. Live chat is available.
- [Talk to Someone](#) – If you want a caring chaplain to guide you on your faith journey.
- [Is the Bible trustworthy?](#)
- [Scientific Evidence for the Bible](#)
- [Share Your Faith Simply](#) – When we meet Jesus, we should share with others what God has done, and this guide can help us.
- [Discovering Truth with Friends & Family](#) – You can start studying the Bible with others using this simple tool.
- [Listen to Teaching](#) – Find a variety of preachers here. Be sure to compare what they say to the Bible.



"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up."

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10