

A NEW BEGINNING

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).

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

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).

You can become a Christian right now — you can come home — by opening the door to Christ and trusting Him as Lord and Savior. It is so easy a child can do it, yet, at the same time, it is hard because we first have to realize that we cannot do it on our own. Jesus said that to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, a person must be willing to humble himself as a child, and only then will God receive him.

How about you? Are you ready to make this commitment? All it takes are three simple steps. But first, you should stop and think about the cost of serving Christ and consider these steps very carefully.

1. **Acknowledge that you are a helpless sinner separated from God.** "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). All of us were created to have fellowship with God, but, because of humankind's stubborn self-will, we have chosen to go our own independent way. No amount of good deeds on our part can win God's favor. Agree with God that you are a lost sinner unable to save yourself. You need a Savior to bring yourself back to God. Understand that God is holy. No sin will ever enter His presence, for "righteousness and judgment are the habitation of His throne" (Psalm 97:2).
2. **Agree that Jesus Christ is the only provision for your salvation.** Through the Lord, you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life. You must believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins, and know that He wants to be your Lord as well as your Savior. He wants to take possession of your heart and rule in it so that from now on, His Word is law to you. "As many as received Him, to them He gave power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." (John 1: 12).
3. **Truly desire to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and ask Him to come into your heart.** You should understand that when you receive Christ, you experience a new birth. You do this by turning from self to God (repentance) and trusting Christ to come into your life to forgive your sins and to make you the kind of person He wants you to be. You receive the Lord by faith through prayer, as an act of the will. You must also confess the Lord Jesus Christ before men. "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" (Romans 10:9).

God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. If you clearly understand what Christ accomplished on the cross and have considered carefully the demands He makes, there is nothing to stop you from becoming a Christian. Now you should go where you can be alone or in the presence of another Christian, get on your knees before God and pray a simple prayer such as this:

Lord Jesus Christ, I need You. I agree that I am a sinner and have sinned in my thinking and speaking and acting. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I have counted the cost of following You. I repent and turn away from my past sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be. Amen.

Does this prayer express the desire of your heart? If it does, pray it right now, and Christ will come into your life, as He promised.