

The Gospel or Good News of Jesus

IN THE BEGINNING Unlike all created things, God has always existed (Psalm 90:2)^A. He was never created and has no beginning or end. At a point in time, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1)^B. He is creative and powerful beyond our understanding, and He is holy, meaning He is perfect in goodness and purity (Psalm 77:13)^C. God created us to know, love, and obey Him (Deuteronomy 10:12)^D. He also gave humanity responsibility to care for and rule over the earth (Genesis 1:26)^E. The first people, Adam and Eve, enjoyed a perfect relationship with God until they chose to rebel against Him. This rebellion, called sin, damaged their relationship with God and brought suffering and death into the world (Genesis 3)^F.

THE FALL When Adam and Eve sinned, their nature was corrupted by sin. Since then, every person has been born with a sinful nature (Genesis 3)^F. We have all sinned and fallen short of God's standard (Romans 3:23)^G. When we break human laws, there are consequences. In the same way, when we break God's laws, we sin against Him. Sin separates us from God and makes us His enemies (Colossians 1:21)^H. Because of our sin, we deserve God's judgment. The penalty for sin is death—eternal separation from God (Romans 6:23)^I.

THE GOOD NEWS Because of His great love for us, God made a way for us to be rescued from the penalty of sin. He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to earth to die on the cross in our place, taking upon Himself the punishment we deserved (1 Peter 3:18)^J. God demonstrated His love for us by sending Jesus to die for us while we were still sinners and enemies of God (Romans 5:8)^K. Jesus was buried and then rose from the dead, demonstrating His power over sin and death and giving us the hope of eternal life (2 Corinthians 4:14)^L. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus paid the debt we could never pay ourselves. Because of Him, we can be forgiven, reconciled to God, and enjoy a relationship with Him both now and forever. This message is called the Gospel, which means "Good News."

OUR RESPONSIBILITY To receive this gift of salvation, we must first recognize that we are sinners who deserve God's judgment. We must repent, meaning we turn away from our sin and turn toward God (Acts 3:19)^M. We must also place our faith in Jesus Christ—believing who He is, what He accomplished through His death and resurrection, and trusting Him as Lord and Savior (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)^N. When we repent and believe, God forgives our sins and adopts us into His family. We are no longer His enemies but become His children (John 1:12)^O. Salvation is not earned by being a good person or by doing good works. It is a gift of God's grace received through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9)^P. We are saved not because of what we have done, but because of what Jesus has done for us on the cross.

OUR NEW LIFE IN CHRIST When we become God's children, He gives us new life in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)^Q. God places His Spirit within us to help us love, obey, and serve Him (Romans 8:9)^R. As followers of Jesus, our focus changes. Instead of living primarily for ourselves, we seek to follow and please Him. We surrender our lives to His leadership and daily choose to follow Him (Luke 9:23)^S. This relationship with God begins now and continues for all eternity. Following Jesus is not always easy, but He promises to be with us through every circumstance (John 16:33)^T. God uses both joys and hardships to help us grow spiritually and become more like Christ (James 1:2-4)^U. We can trust Him completely because He is always with us and will never leave us (Matthew 28:20)^V.

COUNT THE COST Following Jesus is a serious commitment and should not be entered into lightly. Jesus taught that we should count the cost before deciding to follow Him (Luke 14:28-33)^W. To follow Christ means surrendering every area of our lives to Him. It means placing Him above our own desires, plans, possessions, and relationships. There will be challenges, sacrifices, and spiritual opposition along the way (1 Peter 5:8)^X. Yet Jesus is worthy of our complete devotion. While the path is not always easy, it leads to true life, peace with God, and the promise of eternal life.

NEXT STEPS If you believe that you are a sinner, that Jesus died for your sins and rose again, and if you are willing to repent and follow Him, you can call upon Him in faith today. There is no special prayer that saves a person. Salvation comes through genuine repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. However, you may express your faith to God through prayer, confessing your sin, thanking Him for His sacrifice, and committing your life to Him. Choosing to follow Jesus is the most important decision you will ever make. It affects not only your life today but also your eternal destiny.

FOLLOW UP If you would like to learn more, speak with a mature Christian whom you trust. Ask them to share how Jesus has changed their life and to help you understand the Bible. As a new believer, it is important to read God's Word regularly, pray, become part of a Bible-believing church, and develop relationships with other Christians who can encourage and help you grow in your faith. The decision you make about Jesus Christ is the most important decision of your life. Consider it carefully, seek God sincerely, and respond to Him while He is calling you.

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- A – Psalm 90:2 (NLT)** ² Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from beginning to end, you are God.
- B - Genesis 1:1 (NLT2)** ¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- C - Psalm 77:13 (NLT2)** ¹³ O God, your ways are holy. Is there any god as mighty as you?
- D - Deuteronomy 10:12 (NLT2)** ¹² “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the LORD your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your heart and soul.
- E - Genesis 1:26 (NLT2)** ²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like ourselves. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”
- F - Genesis 3** – (Please find a Bible and read the complete Chapter 3 of the book of Genesis.)
- G - Romans 3:23 (NLT2)** ²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.
- H - Colossians 1:21 (NLT2)** ²¹ This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions.
- I - Romans 6:23 (NLT2)** ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.
- J - 1 Peter 3:18 (NLT2)** ¹⁸ Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.
- K - Romans 5:8 (NLT)** ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.
- L - 2 Corinthians 4:14 (NLT2)** ¹⁴ We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you.
- M - Acts 3:19 (NLT)** ¹⁹ Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.
- N - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NLT2)** ³ I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. ⁴ He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.
- O - John 1:12 (NLT2)** ¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.
- P - Ephesians 2:8 (NLT2)** ⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.
- Q - 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT2)** ¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!
- R - Romans 8:9 (NLT2)** ⁹ But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)
- S - Luke 9:23 (NLT)** ²³ Then he said to the crowd, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.
- T - John 16:33 (NLT2)** ³³ I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”
- U - James 1:2-4 (NLT2)** ² Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.
- V - Matthew 28:20b (NLT2)** ²⁰ And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
- W - Luke 14:28–33 (NLT)** ²⁸ “But don’t begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? ²⁹ Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. ³⁰ They would say, ‘There’s the person who started that building and couldn’t afford to finish it!’ ³¹ “Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? ³² And if he can’t, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. ³³ So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.
- X - 1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)** ⁸ Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.