

# Four Steps to Becoming a Christian



## Step One

### God's Purpose: Peace and Life

God loves you and wants you to experience peace and life-- abundant and eternal.

#### **The Bible says...**

"We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10

Why don't most people have this peace and abundant life that God planned for us to have?



## Step Two

### The Problem: Our Separation

God created us in His own image to have an abundant life. He did not make us as robots to automatically love and obey Him. God gave us a will and a freedom of choice.

We chose to disobey God and go our own willful way. We still make this choice today. This results in separation from God.

#### The Bible says...

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23



### Our Attempts to Reach God

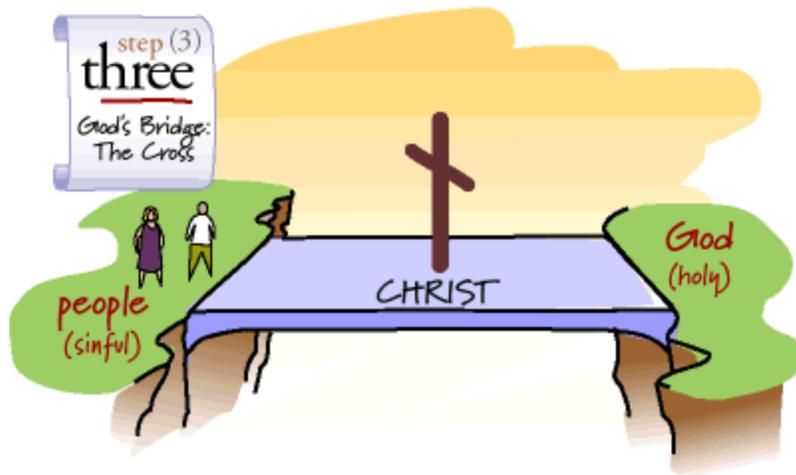
People have tried in many ways to bridge this gap between themselves and God...

#### The Bible says...

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death." Proverbs 14:12

"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear." Isaiah 59:2

No bridge reaches God...except one.



## Step Three

### God's Bridge: The Cross

Jesus Christ died on the Cross and rose from the grave. He paid the penalty for our sin and bridged the gap between God and people.

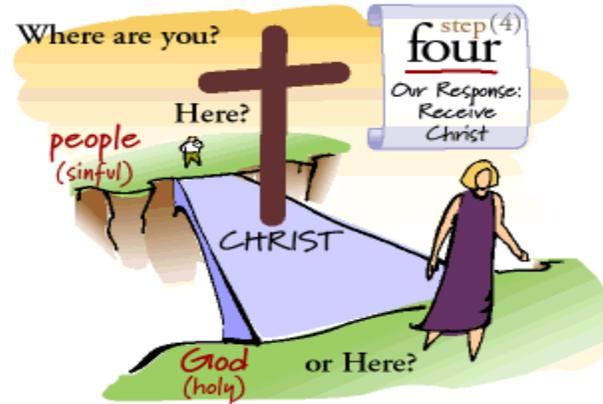
#### The Bible says...

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ." 1 Timothy 2:5

"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." 1 Peter 3:18

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

God has provided the only way. Each person must make a choice.



## Step Four

### Our Response: Receive Christ

We must trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and receive Him by personal invitation.

#### The Bible says...

"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

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12

"That 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

**Where are you?** Will you receive Jesus Christ right now?

Here is how you can receive Christ:

1. Admit your need (I am a sinner).
2. Be willing to turn from your sins (repent).
3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the Cross and rose from the grave.
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come in and control your life through the Holy Spirit. (Receive Him as Lord and Savior.)

## **How to Pray:**

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as Lord and Savior.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

## **God's Assurance: His Word**

If you prayed this prayer,

### **The Bible says...**

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Romans 10:13

Did you sincerely ask Jesus Christ to come into your life? Where is He right now? What has He given you?

"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

"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:12-13

Receiving Christ, we are born into God's family through the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit who indwells every believer. This is called regeneration, or the "new birth."

This is just the beginning of a wonderful new life in Christ. To deepen this relationship you should:

1. Read your Bible everyday to know Christ better.
2. Talk to God in prayer every day.
3. Tell others about Christ.
4. Worship, fellowship, and serve with other Christians in a church where Christ is preached.
5. As Christ's representative in a needy world, demonstrate your new life by your love and concern for others.

Whether you are just now becoming a Christian, coming back to Christ after a period of doubt, or sorting out a difficult problem, this could be the beginning of a new and enduring relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). God wants you to enjoy a full and rewarding life and has made every provision for this. Here are some basic facts about this life.

First, the Bible is food for the spiritual life, which needs to be nourished just as your body does. Through His Word, God speaks to you and reveals His plan for your new life. I would advise you to read the Gospel of John before reading any other book of the Bible. Then continue reading the Bible every day, trying to read at least a chapter a day.

Second, prayer is your lifeline to God. Form the positive habit of starting each day with a few minutes in prayer. Conversation with God may seem strange at first, and you may find it hard to know what to say. But as you continue, your prayers will become more meaningful. So start each day with prayer, and then learn to pray throughout the day as needs arise. Take all your problems and burdens to God, because He is interested in everything you do. "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

Third, a Christian is to be Christ's witness. You are to be an ambassador for Him wherever you go. This doesn't mean that you go up and down the street confronting every one you meet. It does mean, however, that you start living a life that is different, then pray each day that you might share Christ with others and watch God bring the opportunities! As you faithfully study and memorize the Scriptures, you will become better equipped to do this.

Fourth, you can't be an effective Christian on your own. If you are not already a member, get involved in a church where the Word of God is faithfully proclaimed.

The step of faith that you have taken does not mean that all your problems are automatically solved. In fact you may find you have some new ones! You will find that the devil, who is God's enemy and yours, will try to spoil the work God is doing in you. He will try to make you seriously doubt your faith in Christ. There is only one way to defeat Satan, and that is through the Word of God. Follow the example of Jesus when He was tempted in the wilderness. Each time the devil tempted Him, He reminded Himself of God's Word by quoting Scripture (see Matthew 4:4,7,10).

Make the attempt to develop friendly relationships with other Christians at your church, as spiritual fellowship is a great encouragement in growth. The ministry of your pastor will provide strong guidance as you walk in new life with the Lord.