

I SAID YES! NOW WHAT?

*Next Steps for your new
journey with Jesus.*



I SAID YES! Now what?

Congratulations! You gave your life to Jesus Christ! You just made the best decision of your life! This is a new beginning and this booklet was written for you! It will help you with two important things: 1. Growing in your new faith, getting acquainted with local churches and those believers who made the same great decision as you and 2. Knowing that God has accepted you and is happy and excited about you!



One of the best things you can do now is to find a church that feels like home for you. Why would you enjoy and have a better start with a church? Everything that lives starts small. Babies, trees, birds and all that we see in the world starts small, but given good conditions, they grow and become everything they were designed to be. Babies become adults in families and go on to live independent and impactful lives, trees grow in soil and bear fruit that everyone benefits from, and birds are nurtured and taught to soar to the greatest heights.

Alongside the Bible – God's Word- and prayer, the church and fellow believers is one of God's richest environments that He gives us to help us to grow, be fruitful, and soar to the highest potential we were created for. Finding the right one that feels like home for you will be a great blessing to your life.

When you are looking for shoes at a shoe store, often you try a few before settling on a pair. It can be like that as you look for a church. Sometimes, going with a friend who is already a believer is a great way to start as well. Check out a few online or just show up. Pastors love to meet new people and they will welcome you!

~Going Together ~

God Himself describes the believers as His family. When you said "Yes" to Jesus, the bible calls it a new birth. You were born again. You didn't just get saved into eternity and a beautiful relationship with God, you got something extra! You were also saved into a spiritual family! The bible describes it as the ***Household of Faith!*** This is good news because it means you were saved into a relationship with God and you can ***belong*** in a family rather than an institution or religion.

Jesus was also not alone. He was with 12 disciples and together they did great things that changed the world! You and fellow believers, in time, will learn, grow, and do great things together!

~What To Expect At Church~



The church is a gathering of believers who come together to experience God and each other. The Holy Spirit is present and we encounter His love and blessings.

When you go you will:

- Meet a pastor and other believers and make some new friends who will be able to encourage you in your new faith in Jesus!!!
- Enjoy teaching from the bible—often this is when the pastor is speaking and it will help you grow.
- Encounter Jesus! He said that, *“Where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them (Matt. 18:20).* You will feel His presence and love as you are there. Sometimes that will happen in the worship, or just in the building, or sometimes through

the other believers as you are chatting because He lives inside them.

God will lead you to a church gathering where you feel at home. He is a good Father and guiding you is important to Him. There are lots of different types of churches and denominations. Some are loud. Some are quiet. Some are small and some are big. It's like Christmas dinner. He is just happy you show up to be with Him. He will take care of your growth and help you become and do all He has planned for you in this new journey! Don't forget to tell the pastor about your recent decision to follow Jesus. He will be so excited for you and will even remember the day he made his decision also!

~What should you look for in a Church~

- Worship that helps you encounter God
- Friendly people who are encouraging
- They teach the bible
- Has a bible study you can join

~What Happened on the Inside of Me? ~

I am going to use an emotional word picture to describe your new spiritual reality! Imagine you bought a lottery ticket! Now imagine you WON! At first, you can't believe it! Then it sinks in! You are excited! But how it will affect you for years to come will still unfold. Your life was one way, and now it's another! Your situation was one way! Now it's another.

This is how it is with you! The only difference is, you didn't win by chance! The bible says that ALL who call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Rom. 10:13)!!! Anyone and everyone can have this. But when it happens in your life, it's EPIC!!! Your situation was one way, now it's another! Here's what happened to you:

1. **You have become a child of God!** You are now a son or daughter of God, you can begin to talk to Him personally, as your Father. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name (John 1:12). Talking is normal in families!
2. **You came home to God!** Jesus tells a story called the prodigal son Luke 15:24 ~ For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found (Luke 15:24). When his father saw his son coming back, He ran and threw his arms around him weeping with joy. Today God, your father, embraced you when you came home to Him. From now on, you will live for all eternity in His embrace.
3. **Been born again!** This is big! God now lives in you by His Holy Spirit. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new (2 Corinthians 5:17) (John 3:3). Think of it like this. When you have coffee in the morning, (Tim Hortons forever!!!) and it's black, then you add cream. It is now completely different and no matter how much you try or filter, it will always have cream in it. The cream and the coffee are now ONE! God says that when you come to the Lord, you are now one spirit with Him. His Holy Spirit comes inside you! He is one with you (1 Cor. 6:17) and will be with you forever even to the end of the age (Matt. 28:17-20)
4. **Not Guilty!** This is a big one! On the cross, Jesus paid for all your sins. The bible says the payment for sin is death. So he paid it on your behalf so you could be free and God has forgiven the debt because He sent His Son to pay it for you. And the Son, Jesus was pleased to pay it. For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross (Heb. 12:2) You are that Joy. The joy of forgiving you and seeing you come back to God! He says this to you: "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!" (Romans 8:1). All condemnation is now gone.
5. **You are Free, and Forgiven!!!** Jesus says, "He who commits sin is a slave to it, but he who the Son sets free is free indeed!" That means he set you free from your patterns of sin that mastered you. And you are free to choose now how to live because He has freed you and given you the power of His Holy Spirit! He goes a step further to bless you even more when He says, "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for my sake and REMEMBERS THEM NO MORE!" When my son would do something wrong, I forgave him the first time he said sorry. But all day, he would be sad and feel condemned for hours! I sat him down and said, "Son, I forgave you the first time you said sorry! Now go play lego!" I have no joy in remembering any mistakes my son made. I remember them no more for my sake. But there is joy in remembering how relieved he felt when I affirmed my forgiveness. And there is joy for me when he would go back to doing what sons were made to do... **go play lego!** Jesus came to give you life and life abundantly! Enjoy your life, He is with you and loves you and goes with you into your abundant life (John 10:10)!
6. **Peace!** Yes! Peace! You have been reconciled to God and you will find that there is a new peace in your life.

Many bible studies and church services will help you explore the epic and vast reality of this in your everyday life and, let me tell you, it is going to be a great journey!

~ The Knock ~

Lastly, what happened to you is this....

Jesus knocked on the door of your heart! He says it like this, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him." When you come home to God by receiving Jesus, He comes and makes His home in you! When your life here is done, there will be another door—the door to Heaven! It will be opened to you and you will go into all of Him! Whether here on the earth, or in heaven, you will be together. You just change location!



Jesus says this to you today:

"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare (build) a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also! (John 14:2-3)."



~ What If I Don't Feel Saved? How Can I Be Sure? ~



Totally normal! Feelings change and can go up and down based on many things such as the weather, hunger, hormones, or situations. Thank Goodness our FAITH is based on something that doesn't change: God!!! He tells us in His Word, the Bible, that, "I am the LORD, and I do not change. That is why you descendants of Jacob are not already destroyed" (Malachi 3:6). He tells you about Himself in Psalms 106:1, Praise the LORD! Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever. And He tells you in Hebrews 13:8

that He is the same yesterday, today and forever!

Your faith is not in something or someone that changes. Your faith is in a person who is eternal, loves you eternally, and never changes in ability to miraculously move in your life with goodness and love that will endure through every storm, sin, or situation. You are His son or daughter and He is committed to you and has forgiven you.

~The Farmer ~

In my organization, we felt led to do a large stadium event to preach the Good News of Jesus in the city of Saskatoon. When I stepped forward in faith to what I felt the Lord asked me to do, I was worried about the money. It was a 320K project. A farmer came to my house and said, "God told me to give you some grain!" I replied, "I don't have a farm! What am I going to do with wheat?" The farmer said, "You're going to sell it!" Turns out it was 6000 bushels of grain. And enough to cover the rental of the stadium!!!

It took about a month for the money to come, but I put it in the budget as a pledge. Because I knew this man well, I never doubted for one second that the money would come! A man is only as good as his word. God knows this and put it into a verse you could live by:

He exalts His word even above His name (Psalm 138:2). If He says something, then He means it and you can take it to the bank based on His character!

Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has eternal life, and shall not come into judgement, but has passed from death into life (John 5:24)

And

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whosoever believes in Him, will not perish but have eternal life! (John 3:16).

If you gave Him your life when you believed, then you are now saved! Trust Him, not your feelings!!!

The bible will teach you over and over again about the Lord! The bible is His word that explains to you who He is and what He can do for you and through your life to change the world. His miracles are outlined in the pages to show you what He is capable of when you serve Him! They are menu options when challenges surround and He is able to do what you cannot by the power of His Holy Spirit! They are called miracles.

The Holy Spirit Witness

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity who helps us experience God's love, presence, and power. He gives us strength to overcome sinful habits, comforts us and reveals Jesus to us. But He also does something else!

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God! There is a witness who can never lie. He is the Spirit of Truth and He is the Holy Spirit. He stood as a witness as you were being born again. He came inside and is one spirit with you and He testifies that it actually happened. Your spirit is in agreement with Him, and there is a knowing inside you that He has declared that now you are a son/daughter of God!

Welcome to the family!!! Come Home and feel welcomed into a nearby church. Tell the pastor your new decision and enjoy your new life in Jesus—filled with the Holy Spirit! You belong and you are loved!

For Those Who Want to Pray to Receive Jesus:

If you are receiving this as a gift and haven't received Christ yet and want to, pray this prayer to give Jesus your life and be born again!



The scripture says, "Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." If you would like to know Christ, all you have to do is receive the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ by praying this prayer with all your heart!

Pray this aloud: *"Lord Jesus, I ask for forgiveness of my sins and surrender my life. I let you forgive me now! I believe that you, Jesus Christ, are the Son of God. That you died on the cross for my sins and rose again on the third day. I believe that in my heart and I speak it with my mouth—that you, Jesus, are my Savior and Lord. I receive eternal life, in Jesus name, Amen."*

If you prayed that simple prayer, you have been born again! You are starting with a clean slate, and you have entered into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Keep God first place in your life. Learn to pray; prayer is simply talking to God like you would talk to a friend. Mark today's date, write it down in your Bible—this is the day of new beginnings in your life!

Welcome to the family of God! Come and get connected at a nearby church! You are loved!

*Ev. Tyrelle Smith
Gospel Fire for all Nations*