

I'VE COMMITTED TO GOD—NOW WHAT?

INTRODUCTION

If you have truly turned away from your sins and repented of them, putting your trust in Jesus Christ, something truly amazing has happened, and the angels in Heaven are rejoicing. And what's more, God wants you to know something: **you now have the gift of eternal life!**

In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.
Luke 15:10

Jesus said, **"I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life"** John 6:47.

There are some important things to notice about this. First of all Jesus said it, so you know that it's true—after all, you've put your trust in Jesus Christ, haven't you? Secondly, notice the tense of the sentence. Jesus didn't say 'will have' or 'may have' — He was very clear when he used the word '**has**'. He is emphatic that if you believe in Him and put your trust in Him, as you have, you have eternal life.

But the question you must be asking is, what happens now I've made the commitment? In this guide, we'll give you some suggestions about how you can grow in your faith.

GOD WANTS YOU TO GROW

There are several ways in which God can help you to grow—through:

- His living presence
- His written word
- His gift of prayer
- His loving family—i.e. the church
- His plan for your life

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation. 1 Peter 2:2

NEVER ALONE

Now that you've committed to Jesus, you will never be alone again, because God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit has promised you a very special gift: His living presence. With God on your

Do not fear for I am with you, do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

side, you have nothing more to fear. God has got you in His care.

"I will be with you always," said Jesus, "to the very end of the age."
Matthew 28:20

FEED ON THE WORD

For a new Christian one of the most important first steps in growing your faith is reading God's instruction manual: the Bible. God wants you to know His way and His will, and it is important for you to read the Bible regularly. There are many different versions of the Bible—some of the most popular are the New International Version and The New Living Translation. There is also a very popular paraphrase version called The Message, which is very accessible and easy to read and understand when you're just starting out on your journey of faith.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

TALKING TO GOD

God speaks to you through the Bible—but just as it's important to feed on the word, it's equally important to talk to God, through prayer.

There's no need to use any kind of special language or words when you're praying.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6

All God wants is to hear from you, so talk to Him naturally, just like you'd talk to anyone. There's no need to feel self-conscious or embarrassed—it's very natural talking to God in prayer, and He loves to hear from you.

You can talk to Him at any time, no matter where you are, and you can talk to Him about absolutely anything.



THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCH

One of the most important aspects of a new Christian's spiritual growth is the support and encouragement they receive from their church.

From the very beginnings of the church, Christians have been drawn together by their shared beliefs, and it is a wonderful experience to be part of a loving and accepting church.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42

In the church, you will find encouragement and you will be able to draw strength from other believers. Getting to know other Christians is a great way of growing your own faith.

GOD'S MASTER PLAN

Did you realise that God has a plan for your life? What's more, he wants you to discover what His plan is for you.

"We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Ephesians 2:10

Don't worry if you're not yet sure what God's plan is for you. He will reveal His plan in His own time—you have to be patient. But be reassured: He will reveal His plan as you:

- Enjoy His presence
- Obey His word
- Pray for His guidance
- Take up your place in His family (the church)

It's important to God that you be a faithful disciple—this means that you are willing to learn in order to

"I chose you...to go and bear fruit. This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples."

John 15: 16; 8

grow in your faith. It is also important that you are willing to share your faith with others, and help to bring non-believers to salvation in Jesus Christ.

BELIEVE AND BE BAPTISED

Now that you're a Christian, one of the biggest steps of faith you can take is to be baptised. Baptism as the Bible describes it is different to the baptisms performed with babies in some churches. Biblical baptism is full immersion baptism—this means being fully submerged in water, being baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. Mark 16:16

Baptism represents dying to sin, and rising to a new life in Christ. When you are baptised, you are showing symbolically that the old life has gone, and the new life has come.