

# SALVATION A Starter Booklet For Beginning The Christian Life

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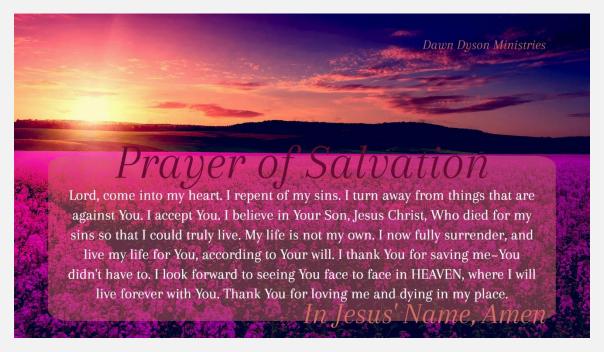
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First edition

# Welcome to the Family of God

Let me begin by saying God loves you. God is our Father. You are His child. By praying this simple prayer of salvation...



...YOU are now part of a very large family of believers across the earth who will spend eternity with the Lord in HEAVEN. So, WELCOME to the family of God!

God has a wonderful plan for your life. This does not mean that our lives are always easy, but no matter your background—what you have done, or what may have been done to you—the Gospel of Jesus Christ promises the forgiveness of sins and full restoration to a brand new life in Him.

John 3:16 (ESV) tells us:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, That whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

In the beginning of creation, God made man and woman a beautiful garden to live in, where there was no fighting, no war, no poverty, no lack or evil of any kind. But due to turning away from God, man allowed sin into the world. We see the effects of this choice on the earth today. Many of us, unfortunately, make the same choice in our own lives. Due to ignorance, or rebellion, or a lack of understanding, we, too, can turn away from God and find ourselves, not in a wonderful garden, but in trouble, or lonely, or just not satisfied with life. Our spirit can become restless. We know we need something more.

The Good News of the Gospel is that Jesus is that "something" or, rather, "Someone" more. He fills our spirits, souls, minds, hearts and lives with everything right. The Bible says we each have eternity written on our hearts. God created us to know He exists. He built us with an unquenchable desire to find and to know Him.

When you are "born again" you simply receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, and He takes up residence within your spirit. A divine partnership is established. Just like you prayed, you turn away from all things contrary to God and turn toward Him, accepting that He sent His one and only begotten Son to die in your place, ensuring your salvation.

The Bible says...

## Greater love has no one than this, That someone lay down his life for his friends.

John 15:13 (ESV)

Jesus has done this very thing for you. He considers you His friend and He has been patiently waiting on you to welcome Him into your heart, mind, soul and life. In John 15:13-15b (NIV), Jesus says...

# You are my friends if you do what I command... I have called you friends, For everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Jesus' commands are not negative things. They do not oppress us—they set us FREE. His directions are words filled with Love, Light, and Life, infused with the power of GOD that helps us accomplish great things that will benefit many. For example, Jesus says this is the most important command:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul And with all your mind and with all your strength.

The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these.

Mark 12:29-31 (NIV)

God is all about love. He wants to give us a wonderful life. He sent Jesus to show us the way back to the Garden of Eden, promising that those who remain faithful to His Son will find everlasting victory and live with Him for eternity in Heaven—a place that far surpasses anything on the earth. Forever has no end! We want to spend it in the presence of God! First John 4:8 (NIV) tells us:

### Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

There are many misconceptions and lies swirling around about God. Has anyone ever told a rumor about you that was not true? If so, you know the frustration you feel when it

seems people would rather talk about you, than simply come to you and get to know you for themselves. God makes Himself known, but He is a Gentleman, and He waits for people to come to Him in order to find the truth. So, the best way to determine God's character is to seek Him directly. God speaks for Himself in the Bible and He will, Himself, tell you Who He is and what He wants. God is Good. God is kind. In Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV), Paul describes God's character like this:

[T]he fruit of the [Holy] Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, Faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Jesus describes Himself like this...

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart,

And you will find rest for your souls.

For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

In Romans 14:17, we learn the Kingdom of God is "righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit." Doesn't that sound like a much better way to live? God wants to give you this kind of life. To appropriate it, we simply receive it from God freely. We "change" or repent, turning away from anything contrary to God, and we become like little children, believing in our Father to be good to us, and we enter the Kingdom of God—of which you are now a part of!

Simply believe upon Jesus, begin to study the Word of God, and open up a dialog with God in prayer. Little by little, from glory to glory, the Lord will transform you from the inside out, and the landscape of your life will change for the better!

# Where Do I Begin?

The Christian life begins by making a choice. Once a person turns against God and leaves an "Eden" kind of life, they wander in the wilderness, sometimes for several decades. What God is doing is laying out two choices: life (good) or death (evil). Here are the passages:

I call heaven and earth to witness this day against you that I have set before you life and death, the blessings and the curses; Therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live.

Deuteronomy 30:19 (AMPC)

The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy.

I [Jesus] came that they may have and enjoy life,

And have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).

John 10:10 (AMPC)

We may leave God's plan during our rebellion or "old life," but Jesus brings us back on course and teaches us holy obedience in the new life. You do not have to worry about missing God's plan for your life, because God has a way of making up for lost time. Joel 2:25a (AMPC) says:

### I will restore or replace for you the years that the locust has eaten...

God has an enemy, named Satan—the father of all lies and the instigator of evil. And, if we have realized it or not, we also have this same enemy who wants nothing more than to destroy us. But, by praying the Prayer of Salvation above and welcoming Jesus into your heart, you have made the right choice! You have chosen life! With this choice comes protection from the enemy and deliverance from all evil. You are now living on the side of good! And Jesus gives you permission to enjoy your new life!

The Word of God is the basis for the Christian walk. There are those who would mock a discussion of good versus evil, but truth is truth and it is inescapable. The Bible is the TRUTH. It stands the test of time and cannot be proven untrue. The Bible is a guidebook for life and...it works. Taking the Word of God into our soul acts like an internal compass that helps us navigate our fresh, new existence.

### You can believe every word in the Bible.

When the Lord moves on your heart and you decide to accept Him into your life, a transformation happens! As a metaphor, we can consider a caterpillar changing into a butterfly. We, too, have an old life. But God intervenes and we open our heart—we hope for something better. We look up to the Lord for help. In the cocoon phase, we go through a process that is private between ourselves and God. We ingest the Word of God, and we are surrounded by the Lord's presence. Then, right when the Lord deems we are ready, we are made into something entirely new and set free, like the butterfly, to do the things He

instilled in our hearts during the cocoon stage. We find we are no longer on the ground and "less than" like we once were, but we can now soar close to God with beautiful wings and accomplish great things. You are a child of the most high God—a joint heir with Christ! Second Corinthians 5:17 (NASB) says:

### Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; The old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

The power of transformation is a gift bestowed on us from God. We do not change ourselves, God does. And He is a Master at it. We simply do our part to believe in Him, remain diligent to learn the Word of God, and let Him lead us every day of our lives. Just as the Prayer of Salvation above says, our lives are not our own. We were paid for with the price of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. All of your debt, and mine, was cancelled the moment Christ died and rose again. Revelation 21:5 (NIV) says:

### He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

In order to learn all Christ has done for you, it is good to:

- Join a group of Bible-based believers;
- Get the Word of God and read it/study it for yourself;
- Read and listen to Bible-based teaching from trustworthy Christian leaders;
- Begin a prayer life with God.

The **Book of John** in the New Testament is an excellent starting place to begin to read the Word of God. It tells all about the love God has available for you through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

The **Psalms** are found in the Old Testament and consist of prayers that can help you as you begin a prayer life with God.

The **Lord's Prayer** is found in Matthew 6:9-13.

It is a wonderful practice to spend time in the Word of God, pray, and write in a journal each morning. A journal can be used to write out scriptures that speak to your heart and personal situation, and it is beneficial to keep track of answered prayer. God cares about every detail of your life. Did you know He keeps a "journal" about you?

My frame was not hidden from You when I was being formed in secret [and]
Intricately and curiously wrought
[As if embroidered with various colors] in the
Depths of the earth [a region of darkness and mystery].

Your eyes saw my unformed substance, And in Your book all the days [of my life] were written before ever they took shape, When as yet there was none of them.

### How precious and weighty also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them!

Psalm 139:15-17 (AMPC)

It is important to note that God will deliver you from any harm that was done to you in the past. When you turn away from sin, and turn toward living a holy life for the Lord, He takes it upon Himself to remove the stains of pain from your soul. The Greek term for Salvation and Savior is *sozo*—it means spiritual and physical healing, or healing at every conceivable level. The Bible says...

As for you, you thought evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring about That many people should be kept alive, as they are this day.

Genesis 50:20 (AMPC)

You see, God wants you whole, and He wants you to help others, too. Your life is very important to God and countless others. You have a divine purpose here. This is why Jesus came...

He has sent me to bind up and heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the [physical and spiritual] captives and
The opening of the prison and of the eyes to those who are bound,
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord [the year of His favor] and
The day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

To grant [consolation and joy] to those who mourn in Zion—to give them an Ornament (a garland or diadem) of beauty instead of ashes, the Oil of joy instead of mourning, the garment [expressive] of praise Instead of a heavy, burdened, and failing spirit—that they may be called Oaks of righteousness

[Lofty, strong, and magnificent, distinguished for uprightness, justice, and Right standing with God], the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

Isaiah 61:1b-3 (AMPC)

God restores us. In His economy, He can take the worst parts of our lives and work everything for our advantage. We simply believe in His inner working power, cooperate with Him, and let Him love us. I can promise you, that as you come to know the Lord, you will love Him back. God is amazing and I am so happy for you and I am excited for you as you begin your brand new life in Christ Jesus. God bless you, and God bless your eternal life!

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

### Resources

This section includes some Internet links that you may find helpful as you study the Word of God.<sup>1</sup>

### ONLINE BIBLES

https://www.biblegateway.com/

https://www.blueletterbible.org/

https://biblehub.com/

https://netbible.org/bible/

### **BIBLE APPS**

https://www.youversion.com/the-bible-app/

https://www.bible.com/app

### **DICTIONARIES**

http://webstersdictionary1828.com/

### STUDY TOOLS

https://www.biblestudytools.com/

### **DEVOTIONALS**

https://utmost.org/

### **COMMENTARY**

https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/matthew-henry-complete/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Author's Note: Author is not affiliated with nor responsible for any external website link content. Links are not in any order of author preference.

# **Dawn Dyson Ministries**

May God richly bless you as you learn of Him and take the first steps of your eternal walk with Him. Please stay connected to this ministry and know God loves you and God is with you FOREVER!

For He [God] Himself has said,
I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support.
[I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless
Nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!]

Hebrews 13:5b (AMPC)

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