

THE GIFT

Forgiveness cannot be earned! Going to church, praying, living a 'good' life and helping others are good things but none of them can give you a perfect record before God. To receive this forgiveness you must...

1. Admit that you have offended God by your attitudes and actions.
2. Turn away from anything that offends God. It is critical that you are sincerely sorry and want to change (God will help you do this).
3. Accept that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave alive.
4. Through a prayer of faith (trust) give God control of your life.

If you are willing to accept God's gift of forgiveness you must also accept the cost.

THE COST

Jesus warned us about counting the cost before deciding to follow Him...

"But don't begin until you count the cost..." Luke 14:28

He made it clear that we are to submit to Him and be willing to face suffering and tough times just like He did. However, as a Christian, God will teach, encourage and help you even in times of failure. As you surrender control of your will to Him He gives you new desires and the power to change...this is a life long process.

SUMMARY

If you have counted the cost of being a Christian, want to become a follower of Jesus and accept the gift He offers you then the following is a suggested prayer...

*Dear Jesus,
I confess that I am guilty of breaking Your laws many times (confess the events that come to mind) and I am very sorry. I now turn away from those things that offend You and ask for Your forgiveness. Thank You for dying on the cross to take the consequences of my sin on Yourself. Please enter my life and make me the person You want me to be, Amen.*

To help you grow as a Christian, read the Bible daily, obey what it says, join a Bible believing church and tell someone about your decision. Talk to God as much as possible, He hears and answers prayer. For more information go to:

www.questionsoflife.com or contact:



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ARE YOU ON THE RIGHT ROAD?

To discover if we are on the right road we need to start with:

"In the beginning God created..."
Genesis 1:1

The Bible goes on to teach us that God created everything including you and me. In the beginning the world He created was perfect (no pain, no war, no suffering, no death) and God said that it was good.

HOWEVER...

A lot has happened since that time and it doesn't take long to realise that things are no longer perfect. This is because mankind (you and me) decided to rebel against God, ignore Him and live our lives however we please. This rebellion is what the Bible calls 'sin'.

THE PROBLEM

The truth is that all of us are guilty...

"...all have sinned..." Romans 3:23

The Bible teaches us that we all have a nature that is selfish and sinful. How many of the following sins are you guilty of committing?

**LYING GREED PRIDE GOSSIP
LAZINESS LUST DECEIT
SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE
BLASPHEMY DRUNKENNESS
WATCHING PORNOGRAPHY**

When we disobey God it shows that we would rather live without His loving rule over our lives. If this attitude continues until death there are serious consequences...

THE CONSEQUENCES

The Bible makes it clear that since God is holy (perfect) and just He cannot overlook or leave our lawbreaking unpunished. If He did this He would be like a judge who let all criminals go free. No good, righteous judge would do that. To a holy God our sin is so serious that He cannot and will not let it enter His perfect heaven.

The truth is, none of us are good enough to get to heaven and by our own efforts there is nothing we can do to change this fact.

WE NEED HELP!

Fortunately God has done something incredible for us.

THE SOLUTION

Instead of giving us what we deserve God actually wants to forgive us. He is not wanting anyone to go to hell and has made a way for us to be forgiven.

"Christ died for sins once for all...to bring you to God." 1 Peter 3:18

This forgiveness was made possible when He sent Jesus Christ (the Son of God) to earth to take the consequences of our lawbreaking on Himself. Jesus willingly suffered and died an agonising death on the cross to take the consequences of our lawbreaking on Himself. He was then buried in a tomb and 3 days later God bought Him back to life again. Through Jesus death God has made a way for all of us to be forgiven.

However, forgiveness is not automatic, like any gift, we must personally receive it.