

WOULD YOU LIKE TO FOLLOW JESUS CHRIST?



Perhaps you are asking, “Is this all there is? Get up to go to work, to earn money in order to live, to get up, go to work, and do it all again?” Living for brief pleasures, but with little meaning?

Or perhaps your mortality is catching up with you. You feel afraid at the thought of death – and uncertainty at what might be beyond it.

Maybe things are falling apart. Life has become unmanageable. “Is there a way out of this train wreck?” you wonder.

Or maybe you are just bored. “What’s the point of me?”

Jesus wants you to know there is more to life than just existing. Or fleeting pleasures and diverse experiences. Or setting goals and accomplishing them, only to die at the end.

REAL life is available to you. Life with MEANING. Life that brings joy and serenity NOW.

Life that enables you to be a person of SIGNIFICANCE and leave behind a significant impact.

Life that promises to extend beyond the grave in even GREATER measure.

Jesus said, “I have come that they may have LIFE and have it to the full” (John 10:10).

This life, life in the kingdom of God, is available to you NOW.

The Bible calls this “eternal life,” not just because it continues forever, but because it is the life FROM ETERNITY come now into the present.

This LIFE is a divine creative miracle within the human spirit that gives birth to faith, hope, and love.

Those who receive this “life from above” become followers of Jesus Christ and live the rest of their days, not for their own pursuits, but in the service of God.

This is a LIFE that infuses happiness, even if you are poor, or without a job, or handicapped, or of little reputation, or in prison, or without a family.

This is a LIFE that also brings unique hardships. It is free for the asking, but it will cost you everything.

All you have been, all you are, all you hope to do and become. Everything you own, ESPECIALLY your time and money, will be at the disposal of God.

Lifelong friends may give up on you. Your own family may reject you. People all over the world today who choose to follow Jesus Christ are losing jobs, houses, property, freedom to travel, even their lives for the sake of Jesus.

At the very least, others may think you odd.

So you have to decide. "Shall I choose acceptance by the world – or shall I choose life in Jesus Christ?"

Jesus said, "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?" (Matthew 16:26)

In his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus Christ has brought REAL life – life out from under the domination of the devil and sin and death — and into the dimension of present, divine reality known as the kingdom of God.

Not only will you find forgiveness of sin, but you will find God's life and power present WITHIN you, changing your inner motivations.

The LOVE of God will begin to permeate your life. In receiving God's love, not only will you find healing for your soul, you will find the most sublime satisfaction known to human beings – living in and extending the love of God to others.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A FOLLOWER OF JESUS CHRIST? You do so by placing your TRUST in Jesus.

Perhaps you believe you have to improve yourself FIRST before Christ will accept you. That is a lie of the devil. The only people who can come to Christ are those who know themselves to be sinners.

Jesus said, "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Luke 5:32).

Jesus accepts you AS YOU ARE. Changes will happen, but AFTER Jesus comes into your life. He will give you new desires. You will find yourself WANTING to do what is right and avoiding that which is evil.

Yes, it will be necessary for you to cooperate with God's actions in and with you. However, the important thing for you to know is that JESUS will do the inner changing you cannot do for yourself.

ARE YOU READY TO RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST AND FOLLOW HIM?

The Bible says, "Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).

Jesus invites you to himself AS YOU ARE. He knows everything about you – the good, the bad, and the ugly – and he accepts you.

He is poised to bring his forgiveness to you, to enter into your life, and to make you a WHOLE NEW PERSON, as you learn to trust and obey him.

The Bible says, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved" (Romans 10:9-10).

Do you believe in Jesus? In other words, do you trust him? Are you willing to surrender yourself to him and become his follower? If so, the following prayer may help you.

"Lord Jesus Christ – I need you. I want you to take charge of my life. I surrender everything about myself to you, my past, my present, and my future. I give up trying to control my own life – from here on, Lord, I ask YOU to be in control.

Whatever you would like to do with my life, please do. I want you more than anything else. I receive you into my life RIGHT NOW, Lord Jesus.

Lord God, I have sinned against you, myself, and others. I regret and repent of these sins. I renounce each sin by name and I trust your help to overcome each one (confess and renounce each one out loud to God).

I believe when you died on the cross, you paid the penalty for MY sins. I receive your forgiveness right now. Lord Jesus, I thank you that I am NOW forgiven. Thank you Jesus!

Because I am now forgiven, Lord Jesus, I choose to forgive each person who has ever sinned

against me. (As their names come to you, declare out loud, 'In the name of Jesus Christ, I forgive (name the person) and I let him/her go.')

Lord Jesus Christ, I ask that you would now baptize me with your Holy Spirit. I want to be filled with your life and power and receive every spiritual gift you would give me. I want you in my life more than ANYTHING else, Lord Jesus.

Thank you for hearing my prayer and answering. Thank you for coming into my life. Now, Lord, teach me how to live this new life. I intend to follow you!

I love you Lord and I am so grateful you have saved me and will never leave me or forsake me. AMEN."

Have you entrusted yourself to Jesus Christ? Are you now his follower? If so, I welcome you into the family of God!

Each day, take some time to be alone with God, to pray, to listen to the whisper of God's voice within, and to read the Bible.

If you are not already reading the Bible, I suggest you begin with the Gospel of John and then read through the rest of the New Testament.

Tell others that you have received Jesus Christ into your life.

Find a church that loves Jesus, honors the Bible, and loves other people. Become a regular part of that congregation!

There are a number of articles and videos on my Facebook page which may also be of help to you. God bless you, my friend!

<https://www.facebook.com/PastorScottHilborn>