

Ever wonder what being a Christian is really all about?

The plain and simple description of a Christian is someone who believes in Jesus Christ as their Saviour. It's not about religion, and it's not a list of dos and don'ts. **It is about LIFE.** It's about experiencing the love, hope, peace and forgiveness that God offers all of us. It's about knowing with all certainty that one day you will be in heaven with God for eternity. In this article, we look at the simplicity of it all, and what the Bible has to say about it.

LOVE

There's no doubt about it - **God loves you!** He wants you to experience peace, to live a full life, and to spend eternity with Him in heaven. He has the best plan in mind for you, and you can trust Him on this.

"For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is [God's] love for those who fear him."
Psalm 103:11

"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29:11

HOPE

We have ALL made mistakes. That means everyone. Big mistakes, little mistakes, believe it or not, all are equal in God's eyes. Some have bigger consequences, and some are more visible than others. Either way, regardless of who we are, and of what we may or may not have done, **our mistakes (sins) separate us from God.**

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

Picture with me, if you will, a bridge that does not meet in the middle, and the gap is too wide to jump across. No matter how many good deeds we do, no matter how much God loves us, the gap remains. Imperfection simply cannot touch perfection. Holiness cannot touch unholiness. We just can't get to God or heaven on our own... so what is the hope that Christians have?

Our hope is that there is someone who can repair our bridge to God, save us from falling through the middle, rescue us from our mistakes, and deliver us from an eternity that is uncertain. So who is this person? And where do we find hope?

FORGIVENESS

The person is Jesus and He offers us hope (through forgiveness) at the cross. The cross is all about forgiveness. Forgiveness is the only way to repair our bridge to God, who loves us so much. You are so important to God, your life is so important that **He sent Jesus to give His life in return for yours.**

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16.

Remember, we cannot get to God because of our sins. BUT, in dying on the cross for us, Jesus took on our sin and literally died in our place so that we might be made right with God. When Jesus died and then rose to life again, he conquered the death that should have been ours because of our sins.

"For the wages of sin is death, BUT the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

We are FORGIVEN! Our bridge is REPAIRED! We can now experience PEACE, FULL LIFE and ETERNITY in HEAVEN!
But HOW?

PEACE

Jesus has already done His part to set you free to experience the full life God offers you. What is your part? You have to accept Him, and the forgiveness, peace and life He has waiting for you.

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20.

Jesus is always knocking; it's up to you to answer. Salvation (living in heaven for eternity) is not something we can earn, but instead it is a gift that we must choose to accept.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:8-10

Salvation is a matter of FAITH. No, we are NOT saved BY our works, but TO DO good works – do you see the difference? In short, it is up to you to **accept this gift of grace** (something we do not deserve) that God is waiting to give you.

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

Whoever you are, whatever your past, wherever you are right now, becoming a Christian is as simple as saying a prayer to tell God that you...

- Need the love, hope, forgiveness and peace that He is offering.
- Believe that Jesus is God's son, that He died for you, and that He rose from the grave.
- Thank Jesus for repairing your bridge, and you want to open the door for Him to come into your life and be your Saviour.

Don't worry about what words to use in your prayer, or how it may sound to God. God knows you, and all He cares about is that you mean it.

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord [Jesus] will be saved." Romans 10:13

"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9

WHAT NOW?

When you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, you become what the Bible calls a believer and a child of God. Becoming a Christian however doesn't mean that life suddenly becomes easy, and you don't suddenly become perfect... but as you grow to know God and His Son Jesus, you gain a deeper peace despite the tough times - trusting that God is always at work in your life, and in seeking to know Him more, you inevitably do become changed.

So how do we grow in our faith and get to know God? Any relationship of value needs TLC. It's the same with God. There are a few ways to nurture your relationship with God and get to know Him and His Son, Jesus.

- Share your decision - with us here at Mom's Moments, or with a friend.
- Start to read the Bible – the book of John is a great place to start – if you don't have a Bible (or a version that's in plain English), we'll let you know how you can get one; after that, there are also great "Devotionals" (Bible reading guides) which will help you on your way – see below for more info.
- Pray...God wants to share your life with you, including all the ups and downs, joys and sorrows, doubts, anger, happiness, and excitement! The more you pray, the more comfortable you will get with talking to God. He loves to hear from you, and you can tell Him anything - He can handle it!
- Check out a local church where Christ is preached and the Bible is taught. If that's not possible for you, there are church programs on TV or Christian radio stations, but do try to get "plugged into" a place where you can meet other Christians. It really helps to feel connected, encouraged, and supported!
- We also have various resources available on our website to help you as you begin to learn about your choice. These can get you moving towards a better understanding of what it means to be a Christian. Go to www.momsmoments.ca/onlineresources and scroll down to the "Growing in Faith" section. You will find guides to help you study the Bible, online radio broadcasts, online Bible studies and more.

If you would like to know more about anything in this article, or if you've made a decision to accept Christ as your personal Saviour, please don't hesitate to email me at anna@momsmoments.ca, I'd love to hear from you!