
I accepted Christ. Now what?

Written by Inner Session Ministry

You just signed up for LIFE. *God's way.*

"I am the way, the truth and the life." John 14:6

Let's discover the true meaning of **Believe!** It's more of an action, than a thought.

The word believe translates from the Greek word "pisteuo", it actually means "believe in, to entrust, to rely on, to cling to". All action words.

Belief compels our willingness to endure each day as God transforms us more and more into His image. So belief is something we do.

"Day in and day out", has the power to build something greater than the cares of this world.

...Our name, over the promise that we'll inherit the Kingdom of God. A place where sin doesn't go.

The destiny of Christians is bound up in the destiny of Jesus.

We are the temple of the living God
(2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

He desires to reveal his love and invisible qualities. In other words, God makes promises *to make himself known*. And when we take him at his word our relationship grows because God always keeps his word.

Belief doesn't say "I know", it says "I will".

...Wait?! Then what does faith do?

Faith manages the component of time while belief holds the door for Christ to come in. Belief stands assured and convinced no matter how much time it takes to see any of His promises revealed in our lives. Cf. Hebrews 11:1-6

You can't have faith in something you don't *believe* in.

True belief is also our accountability to Christ as our source for what is needed to qualify for the future promise of our resurrection.

(1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, John 11).

It all comes down to walking out the picture of God's work in us, instead of just placing for ordinary.

"...So that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky."

Philippians 2:15

Belief is our willingness to raise the standard of our lives to God's.

A true Christian will always change their mind (repent) to make right decisions in a perverse world, will always eventually return to God, and will always resume the struggle against sin. The 1 Corinthians passage lists sins that, if indulged in continuously, identify a person as not being redeemed by Christ.

Total separation from God is a choice. The intelligence of God was involved in the design of man. He left a space in man that only his size can fill. So no matter what you use to fill that void, *eventually you will find out that anything that is not the size of God will not fit that space.*

Luke 17:21 tells us what fits:

"The Kingdom of God is Within You"

Faith is the active endurance of *belief* to persevere past our character for God's.

The holiness of God is a critical facet of His character. God desires—even commands—that His people seek after His holiness (Leviticus 11:44). Emulating a lifestyle that reflects God's holiness is so important that the writer of Hebrews urged Christians to "strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord" Hebrews 12:14

A persons belief in Christ; yet not revealing God's will can lead to a picture of separation from God on our part.

"For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me."
John 6:38-40

God communicates his glory through his creation. If we stop at just "belief" that God can do all things, but we don't actively function in what He is *calling* us to; we're making a power play of pride over purpose.

We were made to BECOME.

Believers are called to become like God in His holiness Ephesians 1:4.

"Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is." Ephesians 5:17

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." James 2:26

**Understanding the story of the
gospel isn't what saves us, it's our
belief "in action" to trust and
commit ourselves to the standard
of it.**

Our "belief" is shown as a measure our love to Christ by *employing* what God's standard does to help us "become" the measure of his *glory*:
light/resurrection power expressed as life. The standard of God is the word of God. It's life to us, because He *is* the word. John 1:1

To be *clothed in Christ* is to make our lives an example of what God is calling us to:
~Children of light~

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light."
Ephesians 5:8

The mystery of covenant

Christianity is a covenant that redeems us from death to life, *for the spirit - the eternal part of us*. It's called the *new covenant* 1 Corinthians 11:25-29. ...It's an agreement between **God and us**.



It provides God's power to live for Him. God gives the same moral instructions for us as He did in the Old Testament; but in the new covenant he provides his *Holy Spirit* to supply both the motivation and the power to fulfill those instructions Philippians 2:13

The Holy Spirit regenerates us in God's light (glory). We literally become 7.0! Cf. Isaiah 11:2-3

The New Covenant is the promise that God makes with mankind that He will forgive sin and restore communion with those who entrust and commit... *"BELIEVE"* in His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus is the mediator of the New Covenant, and His death on the cross is the basis of the promise.

Our belief fortifies this covenant with the action of giving to God, what belongs to Him.

Us... (Psalm 100:3, Romans 14:8, 1 Corinthians 6:19)

Every human being was made in the image of God; yet bearing God's name only belongs to covenant people.

God elects all of humanity to represent him to all of the created world. The gift and the inheritance... *is Him*.

What is our part of this covenant? *To live God's word.* To, therefore, walk in a manner befitting of the "royalty" of what we've become after receiving Christ: *a spirit in God's own image*. As we strive to make an end of sin in our lives, God leads us to glory.
Cf. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

What is God's part of this covenant? He gives us His word (both written and a "future", to perform His promises over our lives.) We have access to the limitless resources of God Himself, the assurance of eternal life, and a relationship with God pivotal to our design. We're designed to reveal His light Cf. Matthew 5:14-16

Spiritually Speaking, there is *no light* in the world apart from Jesus Christ.

One of the greatest mysteries of the Bible: is that It's a book of promises directing our lives into communion with those promises.

...Imagine what happens when those words meet your life.

Free-will and God's will, have to the power to produce effective outcomes if they're working in alignment.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is the relationship piece to how God and man are supposed to always be "one".

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing." John 15:5

Meaning... nothing *pro-destiny*.

Do you believe in destiny?

Jesus does. Ephesians 1:11-14

He designed and authored your life with purpose that requires His guidance and direction. God is always leading... unless we take over His role.

While we all want to make an impression with the name we can make for ourselves; all too often we take control of our *incomes* and *outcomes* in total disregard for the perfect picture of destiny God has planned for us.

Think of it this way...

John 1:1 tells us that all things were made by the word of God, who is Jesus. This contains a powerful mystery. Jesus, who is the word: made you in His image... this means that "YOU ARE A WORD. YOU ARE A WORD FROM GOD TO YOUR GENERATION."

- Stephanie Ike Okafor

Your life is so carefully designed with unique graces and distinguished qualities that Christ asks something very special of us. Not to compare ourselves to anyone else. You were made to fulfill a role in carrying a part of God no one else can.

Proverbs 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Not just when things are good, but especially when difficult or impossible moments in life test our faith to its limits. Remember Jeremiah 32:27

"Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?"

Project "You" began with God's vision.

Faith activates that vision. Our spiritual sight.

God gave you life, so He could reflect himself in You.

If God challenges us to seek the revelation of His exceedingly great power, it means he's inviting us to mature in our perception of what activates that power. *His son performing through His word.*

Proverbs 9:10 adds to this, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

Our human eyes can never see what God sees until HE opens up the eyes of our understanding. It's a supernatural process we are asked to learn.

Why is our spiritual sight so important?

Because, We are predestined to become “Sons of light”. A royal generation having lives emulating the whole story of creation. Not just the parts we think are the best.

... *“See, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.”*
Isaiah 48:10

God purifies and proves His people (Ezekiel 22:18-22; Isaiah 32:9). If persistent sin or apathy towards God’s plans for our lives takes hold, we can become spiritually blind.

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” Romans 8:14

God’s kingdom is a picture of what is yet to come.

John 12:36 “While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light”. How do we do that?

Make good use of the power Jesus gave us. Use it to reject the plans of the adversary (Satan). Cover every area of your life -with the spoken word of God.

Every line we draw at frustration or pain, pauses this amazing story of creation at work in our lives. God is just, He will measure where the lines must fall, but it’s not our job to put them there first.

Every trial of human nature is to promote divine maturity. He tests our strength, to see if we can yet carry the “riches of His glory”.

Spiritual riches are good things which God has given to us through Christ which either affect who we are or how we live.

This is code for an unbelievable inheritance. Ephesians 1:4-14, 17-19
If we don’t get distracted by the world...

God’s bigger picture is one of royalty and making us heirs of His Kingdom.

You Are an Heir of God Because You Are a Child of God...

You have full access to the largest inheritance known to man! Romans 8:17 says, “Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

Suffering can take many forms. By choosing to obey the Lord Jesus Christ, we are setting ourselves at odds with the world.

Cf. Galatians 1:10

There's a time in our lives, when the best way forward isn't about how many LEFT's or RIGHT's we can take correctly in the valley of our decisions. But turning to face something beautiful in the apex of our story: Jesus.

This relationship connects us to the character of who He is, *not* the condition of what we walk through.

Jesus makes some challenging statements about “dying to ourselves”. John 12:24-26, Romans 6:1-11, Luke 14:33, Galatians 2:20, Luke 9:23. He means spiritually. To take on God’s Kingdom, one has to offload “the world”.

The world is a picture of sin in which the flesh falls in love for the things that God far surpasses.

So in order to share in our future with Christ & enrich our lives by who He is, our right to direct our own lives is dead to us. Cf. Philippians 3:7-8. ...Because without Him, our source can only be “the world.”

Our walk on this earth is to come full circle in the realization that we are made by God, for God. We are completely dependent on him for our life, our power, our impact for Him, and His kingdom.

To follow Christ means we die to *our* own way of doing things. While God still gives us the desires of our hearts; He considers those desires through what should be our hearts first love: *“delight yourself in the Lord.”* Psalm 37:4

He also asks us in Matthew 6:33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

We cannot pursue life's ultimate purpose until we realize God created us to discover and declare His glory (1 Cor. 10:31). Psalm 19 reveals a theme: the glory of God displayed through the world He created (19:1–6) and the Word He spoke (19:7–14)—or through what we call natural and special revelation.

God is truly the measure of everything in our lives! Only He can transform us from self to spirit.

C.S. Lewis said it best: “Humility isn’t thinking less of yourself, it’s thinking of yourself less.”

The Holy Spirit provides the power, the conviction, and the direction for life change.

The Holy Spirit is the invisible person of God. He becomes our source for everything. Including wisdom and knowledge, which conveys to us:

- Conviction of sin, (teaching us God's holiness)
- The fruit of the spirit, (God's personality)
- and, Helps us to discern and understand the Word of God.

The Holy Spirit is a sign and seal of the new covenant that:

- Writes God's Laws on our hearts,
- Produces manifest "gifts" (grace/power) of God's spirit through us: 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 *and*
- Produces the "fruit" of the Spirit (God's character) in us. Galatians 5:22-23

Notice that the *gifts* and the *fruit* of the spirit are two different aspects of God's presence within us. The *fruit of the spirit* (Galatians 5:22-23) is God's character developed in us over time. The *nine gifts of the Holy Spirit* listed by Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 are given to us as that Character gets established. Each of the "gifts" in 1 Corinthians 12 are a supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

These gifts are given to reach the lost, to expand the Body of Christ, and to make God's presence known.

Our job, each and every day, is to yield to the presence of God's spirit within us, who begins to mature us in the image of Christ and works with our character to reveal us as "*sons of Light*"

John 12:36 carriers of His glory/holiness.

A prayer to draw near to God:

Heavenly Father who authored Creation: teach me to know You in the experiences of my life. Teach me how to conduct my ways through the spirit of who You are. Help my belief. Open the eyes of my understanding and put teachers on my path who know Your word like You do.

Teach me to be a product of faith and be rewarded by it. Develop Your character in me ,through Your son Jesus, as the door of my faith.

I ask: "Jesus... go ahead and do your GREATEST work in me. I'm ready".

Help my belief that you are the Son of God, and that Your death and resurrection happened for my sake, and for the whole world to find freedom from darkness. I want to encounter You as the "light of the world".

Jesus, by Your Holy Spirit: Change my heart, and make me a new creation.

“Father, I ask you in Jesus's name to fill me with your Holy Spirit, to baptize me in his fire, and to clothe me in his power.”

Help is always on the way when we choose to encounter God's power, called grace.

Involving God, means victory! ...even if the way He takes you is different than the way you want.

Free will is a light to your path when you allow God to direct yours.

Come close to God, and God will come close to you. James 4:8 NLT

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