

How do I turn my life over to God and begin to follow Jesus?

The Bible tells us that every person has chosen to live life the way we think is best, instead of following God's design. The result is that our human failures, wrong choices and selfishness have devastating consequences for our own lives, for our relationships and for the world. We see it play out every day all around us: injustice, greed, oppression, addiction, pornography, pollution and violence. Yet, despite the mess that we've made, God has never stopped loving us or desiring that we know Him. Indeed, the good news is that God—and God alone—has provided a way out of our sinful mess.

God sent Jesus into the world to teach us how to live as God intended. And Jesus laid down his own life, taking the sinfulness of all humanity onto himself, suffering what we deserved so that we could be forgiven and set in a right relationship with God. But Jesus didn't remain dead. God raised him to new life and in doing so, the hope and beauty of that new life was made available to all who believe what God has done for them and begin to follow Jesus' way of living. This new life extends beyond our present existence and into eternity.

What God has done is an expression of his unfathomable love for us. He knows us intimately and loves us totally. It doesn't matter what we've done in the past, nothing we have done or ever could do would make God love us less.

To embrace the new life that God offers is the most important decision you could ever make. It's the life you were made for. To enter into this new life, the Bible tells us to do the following:

First, confess to God that you've sinned. That means that you've acted in ways that have brought hurt and pain to others and that are inconsistent with God's desires for his Creation. You can simply speak to God as though you are speaking to a close friend. Ask God to forgive you for your sinfulness. Acknowledge your brokenness and your need for God to work in your life to make you a new person.

Next, ask God to fill your life with his goodness, love and peace. Commit to turning away from all of the sinful and broken ways that you've been living and let God know that you will begin the lifelong process of becoming more like Jesus. Express whatever gratitude you feel to God for his forgiveness and for the new life that you will begin to experience as you pursue a relationship with him. You can end your conversation with God by simply saying, "Amen."

Now, it's very important that you let others in your church know what you've done. Tell a friend, or contact the Northview Campus that you attend and ask to speak with one of the pastors. The Bible tells us that those who follow Jesus become a part of God's family. Your new brothers and sisters will want to celebrate with you and come alongside of you to support you as you learn how to live as a follower of Jesus.

Welcome to God's family!