

getting to

**Know**

**God**

A brief guide to your first steps  
following Jesus

glasgowelim

## **The most important step you will ever take!**

Your decision to follow Jesus is the most important decision you will ever make. By following Jesus, you come to know God.

Jesus said that how we respond to Him is a life or death decision:

*“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”* John 5 v.24

### ***So how do we actually come to know God?***

First of all we must know our real need. No-one can know God without Jesus. We are all sinners.

The Bible says that God created a good world. The first couple, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God’s command. And ever since they tried to go their own way, the whole of the human race has tried to do the same thing.

The results have been disastrous. Broken relationships. Guilt. Shame. Greed. Murder. War. The list goes on and on.

And we have all played our part. We have all sinned. Romans 3 v.23 says that *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*

We have sinned and as a result have failed to fulfil the glorious potential God gave to humanity. And our sin leaves us in danger of God’s judgment.

The good news is that Jesus came to rescue us!

There is an illustration that sets this out in very simple terms. It is called the *Bridge to Life.*

God and life are on one side. We are on the other side. Where there is death and destruction. We can't get to God.



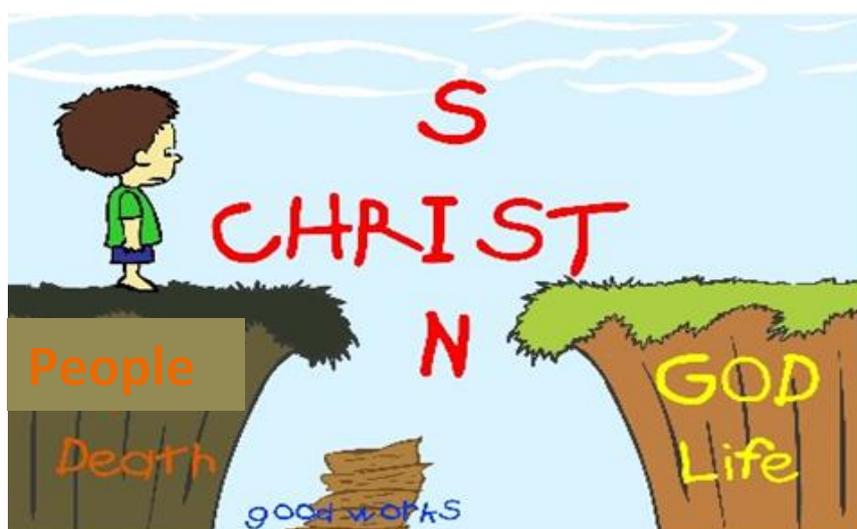
Our sin has separated us from God:



So we try all sorts of things, good things to bridge the gap between us and God:

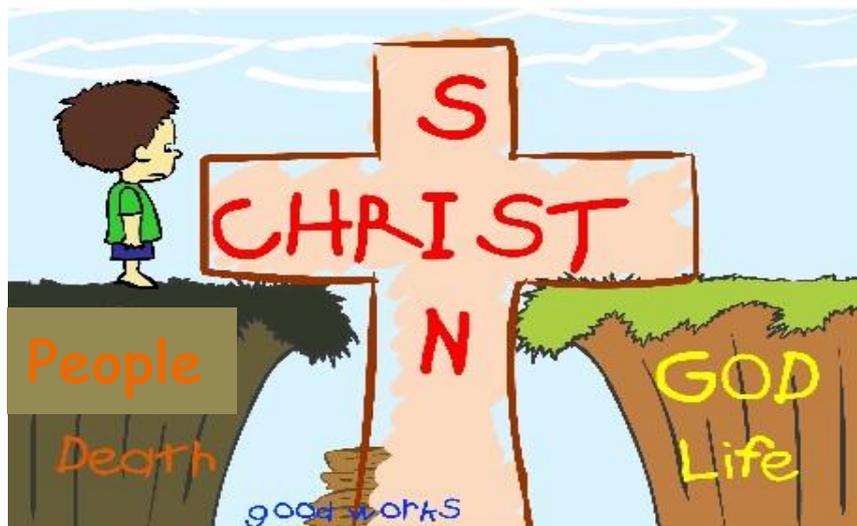


We can't bridge the gap between us and God. The Bible says that we deserve God's judgment for our sin. But God sent His Son Jesus to bridge that gap:

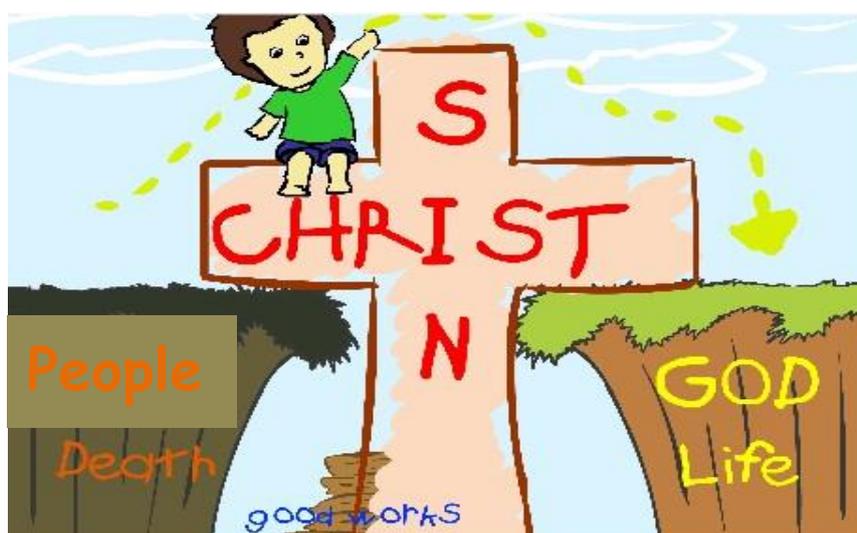


The Bible says: *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”* John 3.16-17

Through His death and resurrection He has paid the penalty for our sin:



Because of what Jesus has done, the gap is bridged and we can now know God:



## Changing our minds and trusting Jesus

How does all of this become real for us?

The Bible says that we must repent of our sins and believe in Jesus.

“Repent” really means that we have a change of mind about our lives. We see our sins for what they really are and turn to God and ask for forgiveness.

“Believing” is trusting. We trust our friends. It is something that is instinctive. Jesus is the best friend we could ever have. He is the friend who *never* lets us down.

It is actually very simple. We stop going our own way and instead we trust Christ and follow Him as our Lord. To make Jesus our Lord is like saying we are making Him our leader.

How? By praying a short prayer like the one below:

### **A prayer to get you started**

Dear Lord Jesus

I am sorry that I have sinned. I am sorry that

I have gone my own way.

Please forgive me

[Take a moment to think about specific  
things for which you need forgiveness]

Thank you that you died on the cross and rose again  
from the dead for me.

Today I acknowledge you as my Saviour and my leader.

Please fill me with your Spirit and help me to live for You.

Amen.

## **Now tell someone!**

Romans 10 v.9 says:

*“If you confess with your mouth “Jesus is Lord” and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved”*

You have trusted Jesus as your Saviour. He is your Lord. He is the leader in your life.

The verse in Romans says *“confess with your mouth”*. Why not tell someone you have prayed this prayer and that you are now following Jesus? You could even text or p.m. them!

## Next steps

When we make a new friend, the friendship grows and develops as we invest our time in the relationship.

It is the same in our relationship with God. In the next few pages you will find out ways in which you can invest in your friendship with God and how that friendship can grow.

### Consolidating your faith

One of the most important ways we can develop our relationship with God, is by *consolidating* our faith.

When three thousand people wanted to become Christians on the day of Pentecost, Peter, one of Jesus disciples gave them this instruction:

*“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”*

Acts 2.38-39

#### ***Baptism***

After they had repented of their sins and trusted Jesus, Peter said they should be *baptised*.

Baptism is about publicly stating that we are following Jesus.

At Glasgow Elim we hold baptism services three or four times a year.

Look out for details of the next baptism service or ask for details from one of the pastors or the friend who brought you to church.

### ***Baptism in the Holy Spirit***

Peter also said that these new Christians would *receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*.

We need the power of the Holy Spirit to enable us to live for Jesus.

Jesus promised the disciples that they would be baptised with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1.5).

We often pray for people to be baptised with the Holy Spirit.

Please feel free to ask the leaders or pastors about being baptised in the Holy Spirit.

### **Connecting with other Christians**

Meeting with other Christians will help you to grow in your faith.

At Glasgow Elim we have *Connect Groups*. People meet together in those groups to encourage each other, pray together and learn together.

There should be one close to where you live! To find your nearest *Connect Group*, you can email [connect@glasgowelim.org.uk](mailto:connect@glasgowelim.org.uk) .

### **Cultivating your faith**

At the very beginning of your new life, it is important fix a time, preferably daily, when you can talk to God (prayer) and hear what He has to say (reading your Bible).

Jesus said that when we pray we should go into our room and pray in private:

*“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”*

Matthew 6 v.6

We will send you some basic Bible readings to get you started and some advice on how to pray.

---

### ***Stay connected!***

To help us keep in touch with you, fill out the *Welcome Home!* Card which you received.

Any questions you have please do contact us:

Glasgow Elim Church, 42 Inglefield Street, GLASGOW G427AT.

e: [info@glasgowelim.org.uk](mailto:info@glasgowelim.org.uk)

w: [glasgowelim.org.uk](http://glasgowelim.org.uk)

Tel: 01414237101

# Notes

gettingtoKnowGod

glasgowelim