

If you would like know more about what to do next, please head over to:  
[lifebpc.com/ministries/evangelism-discipleship](http://lifebpc.com/ministries/evangelism-discipleship)

If you would like to speak with someone about your decision, please call Life B-P Church at 6594 9399 to get in touch with a pastor.

GOD,  
*I can't reach You*



Think of a time when a loved one – friend, family member, spouse – did something to hurt you, or you did something to hurt them. Did your relationship with the person change? What was done to rectify the mistake? Both of you were probably unable to have the happy, joyful relationship that you usually enjoy. There was an unaddressed elephant in the room, a barrier to peace. Things didn't return to status quo until some sort of apology and restitution was made, and forgiveness was bestowed.

*That's how it is with us and God.*



God created people because he wanted to have a relationship with us. And for a while, that worked really well. Adam and Eve, the first people that God made, enjoyed His company. They had a great relationship with Him.

Everything was fantastic, until...

**...sin happened.**

*To understand what sin is, think of it as breaking God's boundaries.*

Has anyone ever broken a boundary you set? Maybe your sibling went into your room without your permission, or your colleague stole your lunch (again). They sinned against you. Sin prevents us from having a relationship with a holy God.



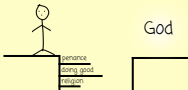
*Anyone who misses the standard that God has set is a sinner.*

The Bible says, "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23a KJV). Now, you may be thinking: Well, at least I'm not a murderer, I'm not as terrible as that other guy, he deserves to die but not me. This is actually untrue. It is not about the act itself; it is about the value of the object being damaged or the value of the person being sinned against. The price for smashing a window is not the same as the price for smashing a luxury car. And since God is of infinite value, the penalty we must pay is infinite. That is why an infinite 'second death' in Hell is the consequence for sinners.

***Because even death, the most we can physically pay, is not enough.***

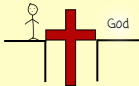
But don't worry! The second half of Romans 6:23 tells us the solution: "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

God knows that we will never be able to restore our relationship with Him on our own.



*We can't reach God, no matter what we try or how hard we try it.*

That is why Jesus, God's Son, came to die in our place. Jesus came down from heaven's glory to become like us, is perfect in nature, and of infinite value. He loves us by dying on the cross to pay the penalty of our sins and is risen from the dead; only He could pay the price. Have you ever wondered about the significance of gift exchanges on Christmas? It is symbolic of Jesus being God's gift to humanity. He offers us everlasting life in Jesus Christ!



Not only would our relationship with God be restored, because restitution has been made, but we'd also be able to overcome death! After we die on earth, we wouldn't go to Hell, but meet with God in Heaven instead, where He lives.

How is this possible? Well...

In John 14:6, Jesus reassures his disciples by telling them, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." This means that the only way to have a restored relationship with God is to believe that Jesus died for you, sincerely repent or turn away from your sins, ask for His forgiveness, and accept Him in your heart as personal Lord and Saviour.

*It is not enough to know about Jesus' death and resurrection as a historical fact: you must also let it change your life.*

Look at the following two pictures. The circle represents your life and the chair represents the pilot seat of your life. The cross represents Jesus. Which circle would you say describes you right now? Which circle would you like to be?



You have to decide. You should know what you're getting into, so here's what it takes to be a Christian...

## 1. Giving up everything

What this means is letting Jesus take over your life. Everything you do, say, and think, must all be centred around Him. He takes priority now. You need to learn to love Him above everything and everyone else.

## 2. Never looking back

In Luke 9:62, Jesus says, "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." It's pretty easy to follow Jesus when life is smooth, but when things get difficult, this is when it's particularly important to remember not to look back, but continue to focus on Jesus instead.

## 3. Taking up your cross

The cross was a tool of execution used by the Romans in Jesus' day. Usually the criminal would be made to carry a cross to the execution site, where the soldiers would set it up and execute him on it. Jesus makes it very clear in Luke 9:23 that whoever wants to follow Him, "let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Taking up this metaphorical cross means being willing to die to follow Him, be it physical death or denial of self (also called dying to self).

Sounds difficult? God never promised anyone that life would be a bed of roses. You may be thinking; If it is that hard to be a Christian, why would anyone want to?

*The answer is simple:  
Because it's worth it.*

Besides, Jesus told us: "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26 KJV). So if you do decide to accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour, and give Him full control over your life, all of this will be difficult but possible, and you'll enjoy a restored relationship with God plus guaranteed entry into heaven!

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

*Believest thou this?"*

(John 11:25b-26 KJV)

If you answered yes to the question, here's something you can pray:

"Dear God, thank you for giving up your Son Jesus to die for my sins. I am very sorry for all the sins I've done. Please forgive me and come into my life; I accept Jesus as my Lord and Saviour. Help me to be closer to You and to live more like You from now on. In Jesus' name, amen."