



**Receiving
Christ**



**Growing in
Christ**



**Living for
Christ**

**“But as many as
RECEIVED HIM**

**to them He gave the
right to become
children of God,
even to those who
believe in His name.”**

John 1:12

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RECEIVING CHRIST

What does 'Receiving Christ' mean? We find this phrase in the gospel of John chapter 1 verse 12. Starting from verse 11, it says:

"He came to his own, and his own did not receive him. But as many as **received Him**, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."

What we learn from this verse is that being a Christian or becoming a child of God is not something we inherit from our parents, but something we personally and consciously decide to become, by receiving the Lord Jesus Christ into our life. That is why Jesus Christ said in [Revelation 3:20](#):

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door (of his heart), I will come in."

[According to this verse](#), receiving Christ means to open the door of our heart and invite Him into our life as our personal Lord and Savior.

The word receiving implies a **GIFT**. Indeed, the Bible tells us that Jesus Christ is the gift God has given to humanity. The central message of the Bible is found in John 3:16 "For God so loved the world (mankind) that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

How does one become a Christian?

It is as simple as A-B-C-D

1. **Admit** that you are a sinner. "For all have sinned, and come short of the Glory of God." [Romans 3: 23](#)

2. **Believe** that Jesus Christ paid the penalty for your sins by dying on the cross for you, so that you do not have to pay for your sins yourself. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. " **Romans 6:23**

"Even while we were yet sinner Christ died for us." **Romans 5: 8**

3. **Confess** your sins by asking God to forgive you all your sins.

"The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin." **1John 1:7**

"If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." **1 John 1:9**

4. **Decide** to follow Jesus Christ by inviting Him to come into your heart.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door (of his heart), I will come in" (**Rev. 3:20**).

Pray the following short prayer that encompasses the above four A-B-C-D's in one, if you have not done so before.

Prayer of Repentance.

"Lord Jesus! I admit that I am a sinner. Forgive all the sins I have committed from the day I was born up to this moment. I believe that you died on the cross to pay the penalty for my sins. I open my heart and invite you to come into my life as my Lord and Savior. Thank you for accepting me as your child and writing my name in the book of Life. AMEN"

What happens when someone receives Jesus Christ?

1. He becomes a child of God. John 1: 12
2. He becomes born again.

Even though the phrase, "Born Again", has been abused in some circles, it nevertheless came from the lips of Jesus while he was talking to an old religious leader. Jesus was telling him that being religious was not enough. "Verily, verily I say unto you unless a man is born again he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3:3

Being born again simply means that our spirit, which was dead to God because of our sin, becomes alive once we repent of all our sins and receive God's forgiveness through Faith in Jesus Christ.

"And you he made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sin. ...But, God who is rich in mercy because of his great love with which he loves us even when we were dead in trespasses, he made us alive together with Christ." Ephesians 2:1-5

3. He becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation, old things have passed away, behold all things have become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17

Can someone know for sure that he will be going to Heaven when he dies?

The apostle John tells us, "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the son of God, that you may KNOW that you have eternal life." (1 John 5:13)

We can tell from this verse that one of the reasons the Bible was written is, like a road map, to show us how to get to Heaven and have assurance of eternal life. God doesn't just want us to hope but **to know** that we have Eternal life. There are other verses that also give us assurance of eternal life.

"He who has the Son (Jesus Christ) has life, he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." 1 John 5:12

"Verily, Verily I say unto you, he who hears my word and believes in Him who sent me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgement but has passed from death into life." John 5:24

"The Spirit (Holy Spirit) himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." Romans 8:16

GROWING IN CHRIST

"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving." Col. 2: 6-7

Just like a newborn baby has a lot of growing up to do, so does someone who is born into the Kingdom of God. What the above verse tells us is that receiving Christ is just the beginning of a long spiritual journey. Christianity is not a 100-meter dash but a lifetime marathon.

The verse also tells us to walk in Him, which means walk in obedience to his Word and to the Spirit of God. By walking in him we get rooted and built up in him. Just like a tree sends its roots down and its

branches up, we are supposed to be rooted in Christ and grow up in Him so that we would bear fruit that is pleasing to Him.

The Bible tells us that we should grow from childhood to manhood. "When I was a child I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child but when I became a man I put away childish things." 1Cor. 13

Growth is a slow process. The only things that grow fast are grass and weeds. A tree does not grow overnight, it takes a long time to grow. It grows slowly but surely, and it bears fruit as it grows.

Just like a tree needs:

- a. Air
- b. Water and minerals
- c. Sunshine to grow

There are some basic things for someone born into the kingdom of God to grow up in Christ? These basic things are:

- a. Prayer**
- b. The word of God and**
- c. Fellowship with believers**

Prayer

Just like air is necessary for a man to be alive, so is prayer to our spiritual life. *Prayer is like breathing.* When we breath we inhale oxygen, which is vitally important to our body, and we exhale the CO₂. Similarly, when we pray it is like inhaling God's grace, forgiveness

love etc.... and exhaling our sins, weakness and failures to him, in repentance.

What is Prayer?

Prayer is a two-way communication with God. We speak to him, and he speaks to us. Prayer is speaking to God like we speak to our best friend. We tell him our joys, sorrows, and we confess to him our weaknesses. We give him praise for what he has done for us, we ask him for his grace, strength, protection and wisdom to go through the day. We ask him to bless and save others. He in turn speaks to us in different ways. The main way he speaks to us is through His WORD. When we read His word, it is like reading His heart because His word is an expression of His heart and mind.

He also speaks to us by his Spirit that dwells in us. When we do or say something that is not pleasing to Him, he convicts us but never condemns us, because condemnation is of the devil.

Prayer is communication between a father and a child. He is our heavenly Father, and we are his children. Unlike our earthly fathers, he is perfect and blameless. No matter how good our earthly parents might be or have been, his goodness is beyond comparison. If, unfortunately, our earthly fathers were absent or abusive, please don't see your heavenly father with the same lens, because he is the total opposite of what you might have experienced. Your heavenly father is the one who gave you his only son, Jesus Christ, so that you would not be lost. (Joh 3:16)

To have a healthy relationship between a father and a child there has to be a healthy communication. That is what prayer is, a healthy communication between Him and us.

Different kinds of prayer

A. Prayer of repentance

This prayer is the prayer that brought us into the family of God and made us the recipient of his mercy. It is also the kind of prayer that keeps the channel open between God and us because sin blocks the communication line. *Repentance is what cleanses our heart from any sin that has blocked us from having a heart to heart fellowship with God.*

“Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor his ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But, your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.” [Isaiah 59:1-2](#)

The only solution for this problem is a heartfelt repentance “If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” [1John 1:9](#).

“My little children, these things I write to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins we have an advocate with the father, Jesus Christ the righteous” [1 John 2:1](#)

“The blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanses us from all our sins.” [1 John 1:7](#)

If our conscience is clear and our heart doesn't condemn us, we shouldn't pray the prayer of repentance all the time.

“Behold, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence with God.” [1 John 3:21](#)

Even if our conscience is clear, there are times when we might want to pray as David prayed.

“Search me oh God, and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts: And see if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:23

B. Prayer of Supplication

This is the prayer we pray to ask God to give us what we need. Just as Jesus said, “ask and you shall receive seek and you shall find knock and it shall be opened to you.” Matthew 7:7-8

During prayer of supplication, we cast all our cares upon him and replace it with the grace and peace from God.

“Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time, casting all your cares upon him for he cares for you.” 1 Peter 5: 6-7

“Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Philippians 4:1

When we ask God to give us or do something on our behalf with the prayer of supplication his answers can come in one of these three ways.

1. **YES** - He grants our request if what we asked for is according to his will and in his timing.
2. **WAIT** - If our request is according to his will but it's not his time yet. There are a number of reasons why God say wait. Some of the reasons are:
 - a. To teach us patience and build our character.
 - b. To let our faith grow in the process.

- c. Sometimes he says wait because we are not ready for what we prayed for. He delays the answer until we are in a position to receive the answer. God's delays are not denials.
3. **NO** - Sometimes we just don't know what we are asking for. No earthly father or mother would say yes to everything a child asks. If what the child asked is not in the child's best interest, the parents have the obligation to say no. In the same manner, God says no to some of our requests?

Some of the reasons God says **NO** to our prayers are:

- When we pray something that is not according to his will. **“Now, this is the confidence that we have in him that if we ask anything according to his will He hears us.” 1 John 5:14**
- When we pray to indulge in our selfish pleasures. **“You ask and do not receive because you ask amiss that you may spend it on your pleasure.” James 4:3**
- When we pray in doubt. **“But, let him ask in faith, with no doubting for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed with the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord.” James 1:6-7.**
- If there is un-confessed sin in our heart. **“If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me.” Psalms 66:18**

C. Prayer of intercession

This prayer is the prayer we pray on behalf of others. Even though all the prayers are important, intercession is a more noble prayer than just praying for ourselves, because it shows we are thinking

beyond ourselves to the needs of others. This prayer also indicates that we are growing in our prayer life. This prayer is so important that the Holy Spirit himself helps us to intercede for others.

“Likewise, the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but *the Spirit himself makes intercession for us* with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because *he makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*” Romans 8:26-27.

D. Prayer of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is giving thanks to God for everything he has done for us.

“Bless the LORD, O my soul;
And all that is within me, *bless His holy name!*
² Bless the LORD, O my soul,
And forget not all His benefits:
³ Who forgives all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases,
⁴ Who redeems your life from destruction,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,
⁵ Who satisfies your mouth with good *things,*
 So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” Psalms 103:1-5.

E. Worship

Worship is a form of prayer where we praise and exalt God not for what he has done for us, but for who he is, just because he is worthy to be praised, and exalted.

“I will call upon the LORD, **who is worthy to be praised**: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.” Psalms 18:3

“Great is the LORD, and **most worthy of praise**, in the city of our God, his holy mountain.” Psalms 48:1

F. Prayer of Agreement

This is a prayer where two or more believers agree and pray concerning a specific need or request. “Again, I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 18:19

G. Prayer of Authority

This prayer is the prayer in which we use our God given authority against our enemy the devil. The authority God has given to us, is manifested in these ways:

GOD'S WORD

When Jesus was tempted by the devil He used the word of God to defeat the devil. Three times Jesus said. “It is written... It is written... It is written.” Matt.4:1-11.

The Bible tells us to, “submit yourselves therefore to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you.” James 4:7-8.

Notice the sequence of events:

- 1. Submit yourself to God.**
- 2. Resist the devil.**
- 3. He (the devil) WILL flee from you.**

If we follow this command, the devil has no choice but to flee from us. The way we submit to God is by obeying His words. When we fail to obey, we must repent and ask him to give us his grace to help us overcome our weakness.

The NAME of JESUS

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.” (Phil 2:9-10).

“¹⁰ All nations surrounded me,
But in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.

¹¹ They surrounded me,
Yes, they surrounded me;
But in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.

¹² They surrounded me like bees;
They were quenched like a fire of thorns;
For in the name of the LORD I will destroy them.” (Psalms 118: 10-12).

“The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.” (Proverbs 18:10).

“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, **but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.** They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm.” (Psalms 20:7-8).

The BLOOD of JESUS

The power in the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all our sins so that the devil cannot get any foothold in our lives, because he has no ground for his accusations.

“the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7).

“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (Hebrew 9:14).

The Word of God

Just as our physical body needs nutrition, so does our spiritual life need the word of God. “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby.” (1 Peter 2:2)

What role does the word of God play in our lives?

- a. It is our light. Ps.119:105
- b. It cleanses us. Ps.119:9
- c. It gives us our spiritual inheritance. Acts 20:32
- d. It is our spiritual sword to fight our enemy. Eph. 6:17
- e. It is our spiritual food. Peter 2:1-3
- f. It teaches us the truth. Prov. 22:20-21
- g. It delivers us from bondage. John 8:32
- h. It gives us understanding and wisdom. Ps 114:98-100.
- i. It keeps us from error. Matt. 22:29
- j. It searches our heart like an x-ray. Heb. 4:12

We can be the recipients of the above benefits from the word of God ONLY when we live by it. Just hearing or reading the word of God does not do us any good.

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at

himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. *But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it, he will be blessed in what he does.*" (James 1:22-25).

Fellowship with other believers

No Christian can be an island. *Being a Christian, by definition, means being part of the BODY of Christ.* No single cell or organ in our body can survive outside of our body. Likewise, our spiritual life depends on our fellowship with the Lord and with other believers.

Why do we need fellowship with believers?

1. Because God pours out his blessing when believers come together in UNITY.

“Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is*
For brethren to dwell together in unity! ² *It is* like the
precious oil upon the head,
Running down on the beard,
The beard of Aaron,
Running down on the edge of his garments.
³ *It is* like the dew of Hermon,
Descending upon the mountains of Zion;
For there the LORD commanded the blessing—
Life forevermore.” Psalms 133

2. Because the Lord is PRESENT among such gatherings. “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matt 18:20
3. To give and receive Love. (John 13:3,35, Heb. 10:24)

4. To exalt and encourage one another. Heb. 10:25
5. Because we are **ONE** family and members of the same body. 1 Cor.12:12-31, 14:26)

LIVING FOR CHRIST

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” Phil 1:4

In this verse Paul is saying that for him the focus of his whole life is Christ. He lives to do Christ’s will and not his own. If he dies, he goes to Christ, so death is not loss but gain.

How do we live for Christ?

Primarily, we must consecrate our body (all its carnal desires) to God. “¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:1-2

The way we renew our mind and know his will is through his word, because God’s word is the revelation of his will.

Let us look at the two most prominent commands God gave us in his word. Matt 22: 35-40.

1. ***To love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our strength.***

If we love God with all our being we will not do something that is not pleasing to him.

“If you love me keep my commandments.” John 14:15

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers by the mercies of God to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.” Romans 12:1-2

2. ***To love our neighbor as ourselves.*** If we love others as ourselves we will wish them the best, and not harm them in any way. If they are not saved, we will pray for their salvation. We will also witness to them about the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible tells us that we have a responsibility of telling others about the goodness of the Lord. (1 Peter 2:9, Matt. 10:32-33)

How do we witness?

In the simplest form, witnessing is just telling others what Jesus Christ did for us. 1 John 1:1-2

We witness, first through our life, by being a living witness of the love and grace of God. (Matt 5:14). But we should also witness with our mouth. 1Peter 2:9, 3:15

When we witness with our mouth:

1. We tell others what the Lord did in our lives. How he changed our life.
2. We bring the word of God to their lives. We witness to them the same word of God that changed our lives. If it was good enough to change us it is good enough to change them.

“That you may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom *you shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life.*” (Philippians 2:15-16)

Witnessing Tips

To help you share the Gospel with someone, you can use the following approaches.

1. **The Roman Road**

The Problem - “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23 “As it is written: ‘There is none righteous, no, not one’;” Romans 3:10

The Consequence - “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

The Solution – “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Romans 10:9-10

2. **The Four Spiritual Laws**

- i. God loves you and created you to know Him personally. (John 3:16, Jeremiah 29:11)

- ii. Man is sinful and separated from God, so we cannot know Him on our own, or experience His love. (Roman 3:23, Isaiah 59:1-2)
- iii. Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin. (Romans 5:8, John 14:6)
- iv. We must repent of our sins, and receive Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord; then we can know God personally and experience His love. (John 1:12, Ephesians 2:8-9, Revelation 3:20)

3. A-B-C-D (also found on page 3 in detail)

Admit you are a sinner (Romans 3:23, 3:10)

Believe That Jesus Christ died for your sins (Romans 5:8)

Confess your sins and ask for forgiveness (John 1:7-9)

Decide to open your heart and accept him as your Lord and savior (John 1:12, Revelation 3:20, Romans 10:9-10)

“He that abides in me, and I in him the same brings much fruit.” John 15:5



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