

“Good” enough?

Have you come to the point in your life where you realize you're not perfect? Maybe made a few “mistakes” along life's journey... join the club.

We may or may not be “worse” than our neighbor, but that's not the point because either way we are guilty before God of breaking His law. That's what the Bible calls sin.

God alone is holy, righteous and just... therefore capable of the forgiveness of our sins.

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5: 8 NIV).

All people since Genesis chapter 3 have had this “sin” problem. Originally God created Adam and Eve in glorious perfection, but ultimately they were tempted and fell into sin. We inherited that sin nature at our birth. Interesting that we never have to teach our children to lie, cheat or steal isn't it. And nobody taught us how to do it either... Because of this situation, here are some basic steps to knowing God:

Acknowledge that you have failed God and ask for His forgiveness

The Bible says, *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3: 23 NIV).

The Bible says, *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.”* (Romans 6: 23 NIV).

The Bible says, *“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.”* (2 Corinthians 7: 10 NIV).

Believe in Jesus Christ

The word “believe” means to have more than head knowledge of God. The Bible says, *“You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that and shudder.”* (James 2: 19 NIV). Therefore, believing means to have a belief that leads to an action. Note that the belief comes first because we can never earn our salvation.

The Bible says, *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”* (Ephesians 2: 8-9 NIV). This belief means that we are placing our total faith and trust in Jesus Christ. The Bible says, *“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.”* (Romans 10: 9-10 NIV).

Commit your life to following Jesus Christ

This doesn't mean we're automatically perfect. We are however redeemed sinners, saved because of the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf. Interestingly, the more we grow in knowing Christ, the more we discover our own sinfulness. As followers of Christ (what the Bible defines as a “Christian”) we should want to live our lives in such a way that it brings glory to God, and His son Jesus Christ. Although we will continue to struggle with sin, a pattern of sinful living should not be our desire. As a matter of fact, as Christians, when we do fall into sin, it will bother us in ways that it never did before. The Bible says, *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – which is your spiritual worship. Do not conform any longer to the patterns 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 NIV).

If you desire to know God personally, ask God in your own words (that's what prayer really is) for His forgiveness of your sins and invite Him into your life. He wants to hear from you! *“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”* (John 1: 13 NIV).