

VOUS

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MIAMI — FLORIDA

JESUS  
IS OUR MESSAGE

PEOPLE:

ARE OUR HEART



GENEROSITY: OUR PRIVILEGE

NEW

BELIEVERS

EXCELLENCE  
IS OUR SPIRIT

SERVANT LEADERSHIP: IS OUR IDENTITY

GUIDE

HONOR:  
IS OUR CALLING

PASSION: IS OUR PURSUIT

VOUS

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# **THIS NEW BELIEVERS GUIDE BELONGS TO:**

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FULL NAME

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PLEASE RETURN TO

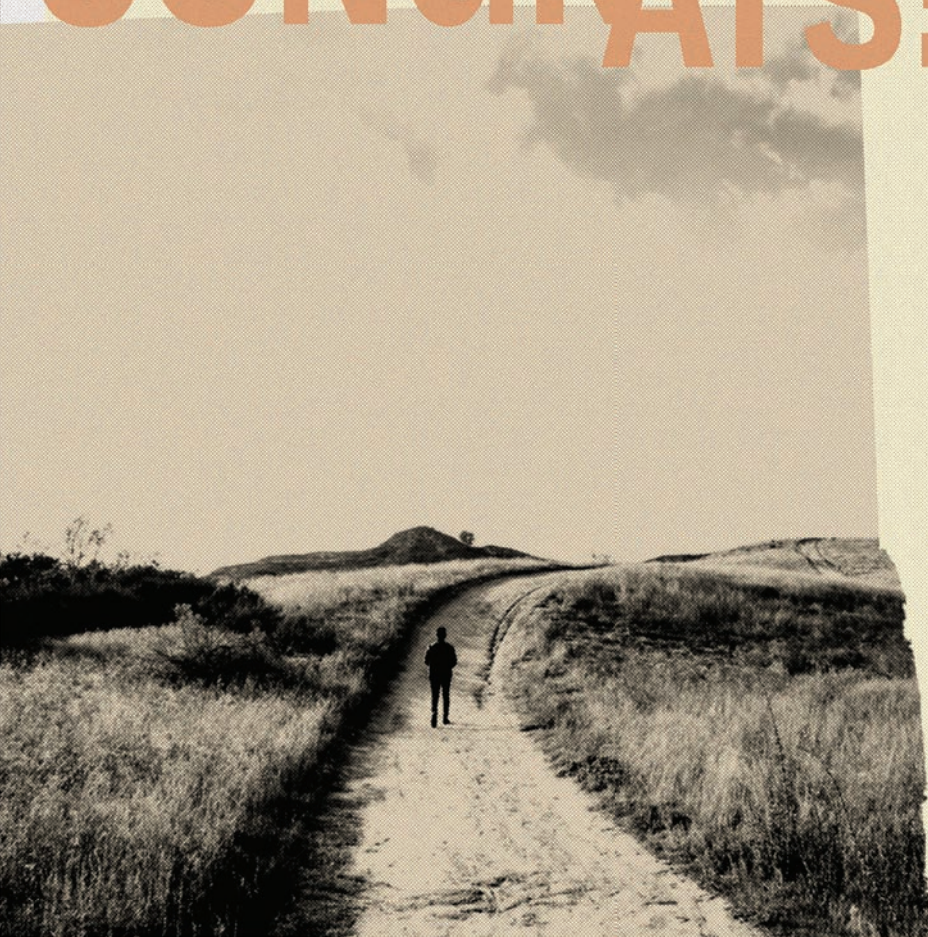


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# CONGRATS!



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2021



You've said **"I HAVE DECIDED"** to follow Jesus. You just made the most important decision of your life. In fact, your life will never be the same again.

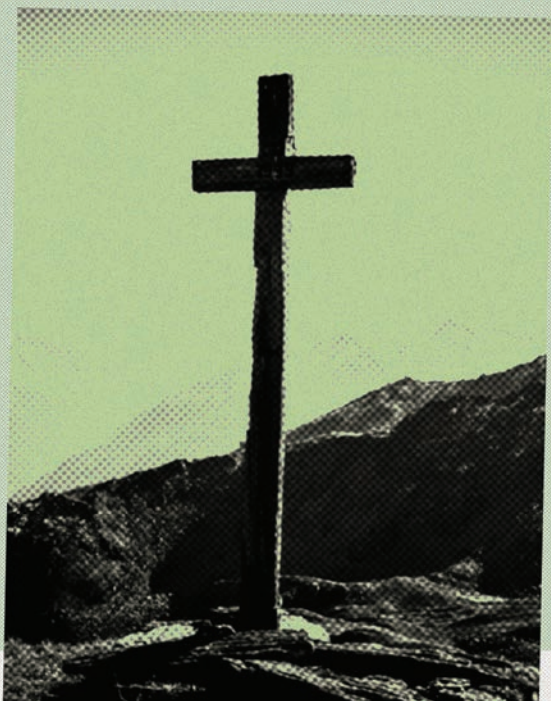
Following Jesus is a journey – one that will continue for all eternity. You will grow and mature in your personal relationship with him, but that doesn't mean you're on the journey alone. It is within the context of community that freedom takes place. The people you surround yourself with will either bring you closer to Jesus or distract you from the purpose he has for your life.

**THIS GUIDE IS INTENDED TO BE A RESOURCE FOR YOU TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND TO PROVIDE DIRECTION FOR THE NEXT STEPS OF YOUR JOURNEY.**



FIRST THINGS FIRST

# WHAT IS SALVATION?





## **WHAT IS SALVATION?**

Salvation is a gift from God. You are saved from the eternal consequences of your sin and given eternal life. Salvation is about what God has already done for you – not what you can do for Him.

## **HOW AM I SAVED?**

Ephesians 2:8 says *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.”*

**You have been saved by the grace of Jesus through faith;** not because of anything you have done but rather, because of what he did for you when he died on the cross and rose again.

## **WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO BE SAVED?**

Romans 10:9 says, *“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

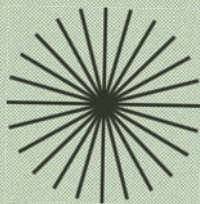
Salvation is when you turn away from sin, repent, and believe and confess that Jesus is Lord. You don’t have to work for salvation, you can simply believe for salvation.

*(References: Romans 3:20, Romans 5:8, Romans 10:13)*



THE TRUTH  
THE WAY  
THE LIFE

# WHY FOLLOW JESUS ?





## **WHY IS FOLLOWING JESUS THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION I'LL EVER MAKE?**

Surrendering your life to Jesus is the greatest decision you can ever make. Through Jesus, you are given a living hope (1 Peter 1:3-6). Your sin is forgiven and your relationship with God has been restored.

Salvation begins the process we call sanctification. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."*

This means that **your former way of life has ended and a new life with Jesus has begun**. No longer are you bound to past mistakes and failures; you now live in the freedom that Jesus brings.

Finally, making Jesus Lord of your life gives you direct access to God the Father. According to John 14:6, *"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"*

Jesus is, in fact, the only way to the Father and the only way to receive salvation. Accepting him gives you access to everything that God has for you.



**AS YOU START TO UNDERSTAND WHAT  
SALVATION IS, YOU WILL LIKELY BE LED  
TO ASK MORE QUESTIONS.**

- 1. Why is there sin in the first place?**
- 2. Why did Jesus need to die for my sins?**
- 3. Why do I accept the gift rather than earn it?**

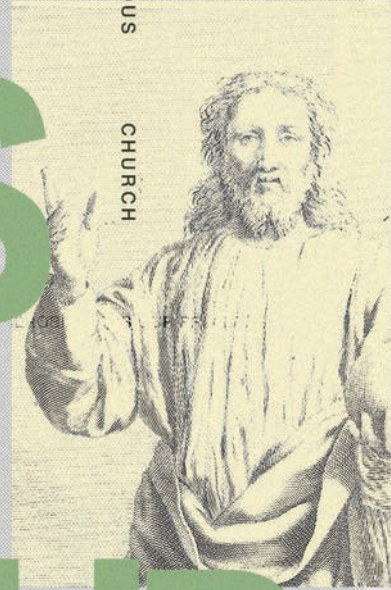
In order to gain a deeper understanding of God's plan, not just for your life, but for all of humanity, you have to become a student of His Word.

*"Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers."* Psalm 1:1-3

**The Bible is the living word of God.** Every part of it is divinely inspired and written. It is how He speaks to us. It tells us His story – and our part within that story.



# JESUS IS — OUR MESSAGE



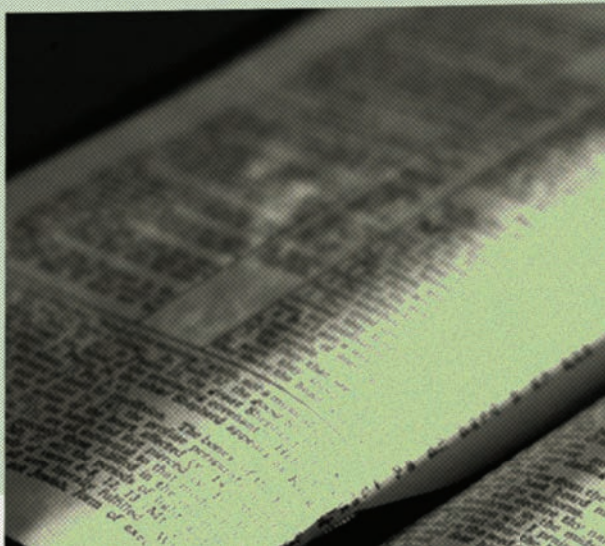


# WHAT IS GOD'S WORD?

THE BIBLE  
THE WORD OF GOD  
NEW TESTAMENT / OLD TESTAMENT

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**THE BIBLE IS FULLY INSPIRED BY  
THE HOLY SPIRIT AND GOD-BREATHED.**

The Bible is the word of God, written by faithful men and women chosen by God under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. While humans were the vessels God used to write down the passages, the truth of the Bible did not come from human understanding or knowledge.

Every part of the Bible is God-breathed. While various writers bring different perspectives, the Bible is inspired by God and reveals his identity, nature, and divine plan for all of humankind.

*“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...”*  
2 Timothy 3:16





## SO LET'S LOOK AT HIS WORD...

*"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."* Genesis 1:1

All that you see and all that you can sense was created by God. The very first book of the Bible, Genesis, gives us an account of creation. God spoke all things into existence, including humans.

Scripture tells us that God then placed the first humans, Adam and Eve, into a garden called the Garden of Eden – to work it (*Genesis 2:15*). These humans were special, **set apart from the rest of creation** because God breathed his own breath into them and gave them dominion over all living things (*Genesis 2:7*).

God's intention from the very beginning was for humans to share in his royal position and carry His authority in the world. But He gave us the choice to live according to His wisdom and share in His inheritance or to follow our own wisdom and live according to what we think is best. He gave us free will.

In the Garden of Eden, God placed a tree known as the **Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil**. He commanded Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree, but rather to trust in His knowledge of good and evil. But, tempted by a serpent (*Genesis 3*), Adam and Eve took from the tree and ate the fruit, acting in disobedience to God and introducing sin into the world.

They chose to go their own way rather than to walk in God's way.





# PEOPLE ARE OUR — HEART



OUR MISSION IS  
SIMPLY  
TO BRING  
THOSE  
WHO ARE  
FAR FROM  
CLOSE TO  
GOD TO  
HIM

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# WHAT IS SIN?

SIN, BY THE DICTIONARY DEFINITION,  
IS AN **IMMORAL ACT** CONSIDERED TO BE  
A TRANSGRESSION AGAINST DIVINE LAW.  
BIBLICALLY, SIN IS WHEN A PERSON DOES  
ANYTHING THAT IS OUT OF LINE WITH THE  
PERFECT CHARACTER AND DIRECTION OF GOD.



## WHO IS THE SERPENT?

The serpent in Genesis 3 is the tempter. He convinced Eve to act in opposition to God. This character matches that of a being known as Satan, an opposer of God. Throughout scripture we see Satan and his followers deceive and destroy God's creation. **Jesus and his apostles warn us time and time again to resist Satan** (also known as the Devil) as to not fall into the same trap as Eve.

*(References: 2 Corinthians 11:3 | 1 John 3:8 | John 8:44)*

Sin causes a separation between humans and God. God is holy and perfect in every way. When we act out of line with His nature, we create a divide between us and our Creator. Because God so loved the world, He had a plan to save us from our sin.

*"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."*  
John 3:16

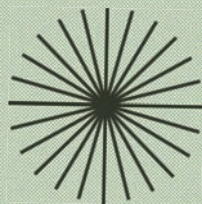
Throughout the entire Bible, we see this salvation plan in motion. Before Jesus ever entered the world, God made Himself known to people and time and time again revealed His desire to be close to us.

He did this most often through the Israelites, known as His chosen people because it was through them that God intended to show the rest of the world what it looks like to be close to Him. **Through them, He would send a savior into the world.**

Because of Jesus, God's one and only Son, we now have a way to be rid of our sins and draw close to God. **Jesus gave his life once and for all – taking our place and inviting us to live according to the way of his kingdom here on earth.**



JESUS

OVER  
COMES

SIN





## **WHY DID JESUS NEED TO DIE FOR MY SIN?**

Romans 6:23 teaches us that *“the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

**Every one of us has sinned.** The consequence or payment for that sin is death or eternal separation from God. Why? Because God and sin can't coexist – sin goes against His very nature.

Since we have all sinned, we all deserve to be separated from God forever. The wage of death has to be paid. Jesus came to earth to pay that price. He took the punishment we deserve on himself. He was beaten, bruised, nailed to a cross and killed on our behalf.

In doing this, Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies about the one who would suffer on behalf of humanity.

*“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”* Isaiah 53:5

**JESUS PAID IT ALL SO THAT WE CAN HAVE IT ALL.  
JESUS DIED THE DEATH THAT WE DESERVE SO THAT  
WE COULD RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE.**



## HOW DID JESUS OVERCOME SIN?

Jesus came into the world, faced all the same temptations that we do, yet never sinned. **His innocence made him worthy to be the perfect sacrifice.** If Jesus didn't live a perfect, sinless life, there would be no sacrifice to pay the debt that separated us from God. **Because of Jesus' blood that was shed for us, all of our sins, past, present, and future, are forgiven.**

But Jesus did not only die on the cross, he conquered death by coming back to life. After three days in the grave, he resurrected from the dead. Jesus defied all the power and logic of death, making a way for you to live eternally.

BY GRACE  
THROUGH  
FAITH

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NEW BELIEVERS

IDE  
2021



## WHY DO I ACCEPT THE GIFT RATHER THAN EARN IT?

The truth is, we are saved because of Jesus' actions, not our own. In fact, **there is nothing you could ever do to earn your salvation.** Even on your best days, you still sin. We needed a perfect savior to die on our behalf and grant us salvation as a gift, because we could never have earned it on our own.

*"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."* Ephesians 2:8-9

No matter how often you attend church, how many days you read your Bible, or how nice you are to people, those things will never get you into Heaven. **Your salvation is secured because of Jesus and Jesus alone.** There is nothing that you could ever do that will make God love you more, and there is nothing that you have ever done that has made God love you any less.

Once you are saved you become a child of God, and when God the Father looks at you He doesn't see your sin or mistakes, He sees Jesus. **Because of God's grace you have been saved, and there is no sin that is too much for God to forgive.** He has already forgiven all sins because of Jesus.



NOW THAT I HAVE RECEIVED SALVATION AND  
UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS, WHAT COMES NEXT?

# SANCTIFI— CATION

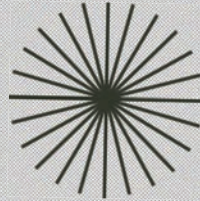




## SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is the ongoing process of submitting to God's Word and Spirit to complete the development of Christ's character in us. **Sanctification is not about perfection, it is about progression.** It is the Holy Spirit's continued work in us to become more like him.

God is the one who does the work of making us more like Christ. We participate in that work by continually turning away from sin and demonstrating our faith in Christ by obeying God's commands.





# DISCIPLINES FOR SANCTIFI- CATION

01 . READ THE BIBLE

02 . PRAY TO GOD

03 . CONNECT TO CHURCH



**BIBLE TIPS**

- Schedule your Bible reading time
- Choose a Bible reading plan
- Have a reading goal
- Find a quiet place and set aside distractions
- Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate the scripture

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17*

**PRAYER TIPS**

- Talk to God daily
- Be open and honest
- Pray for others as well as yourself
- Find a quiet place
- Be in silence and solitude

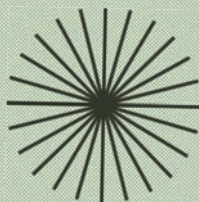
*"Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:12-13*

**CHURCH TIPS**

- Attend Growth Track
- Join a VOUS Crew
- Serve on a team
- Connect to the community
- Invite others on the journey

*"You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house." Acts 20:20*





# NEXT STEPS

VOUS CHURCH  
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## **THANK YOU!**

We hope that this guide has been helpful for you in understanding your decision to live a new life with Jesus. Remember, **your relationship with him is intimately your own, but you are not alone on the journey.** The church is the body of Christ and together we stand united to carry his message to the ends of the earth.

Join the Growth Track at VOUS and continue to dive deeper in your understanding of the specific calling God has placed on your life. We're here to champion you and link arms with you every step of the way!

## **FOLLOW OUR VOUS GROWTH TRACK FACEBOOK PAGE**

Visit the following page:

**[vouchurch.com/growthtrack](https://vouchurch.com/growthtrack)**

See you there! We love you!





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