

what now?

Becoming a Christian is fantastic:

It's about knowing and experiencing freedom from sin that only God can provide in Jesus (and has!).

It's about God's great love for us.

It's about discovering our identity in God's family.

All we need to do is come to Jesus.

Jesus said:

For God so loved the world that he sent his only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not die but have eternal life. *John 3:16*

**Jesus said "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
*John 14:6***

For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." *Romans 10:13*

**For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.
*Ephesians 2:8***

So you might be asking - what's next?

The bible teaches us that there is much more to life than we ever realised. Jesus sets us free so that we can live life fully (John 10:10) – God has plans for us to do some great stuff in life Eph 2:1-10.

Here's some ideas that may be helpful to you in your life with Jesus:

WHAT CAN WE DO NEXT?

1. READ GOD'S STORY!

We need to discover for ourselves what God has really done for us – that's all discovered in the bible! So perhaps we need to read it for ourselves. The bible is made up of 66 'books' – split into two halves called the *Old Testament* and *New Testament*. It has a numbering system to help you find a particular story in it. Each 'book' of the bible has chapter numbers and each chapter has 'verse' numbers – which are usually one or two sentences. *For example:*

John 3:16-17 means the book (John), chapter 3 and verses 16 and 17.

Most bibles have a list of the 'books' in the front like a table of contents. We suggest reading the *New Testament* first, which has the stories of Jesus in it. You can find out about more in our '*reading the bible*' article.

2. TALK TO GOD!

We can pray to God and talk to him about all kinds of things. We can pray out loud, in our heads, with other people, on the bus or on our knees - anywhere. God knows everything and can hear anything – he knows what we need – but he wants us to ask! He wants a relationship where we listen too.

Jesus said: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”

Matthew 7:7

Ok so our prayer needs to be much more than just praying for stuff we want... you'll soon discover that God doesn't dish Ferraris out – it's not a game show – it's more important than anything like that. God always listens and always answers – perhaps not always in the way we expect or even understand.

Jesus taught about prayer:

But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁷“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹Pray then like this:

**“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.**

**¹⁰Your kingdom come,
your will be done,**

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us this day our daily bread,

¹²and forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

**¹³And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Matthew 6:6-13

Jesus gives us a framework for prayer – praying to our Father in heaven that his kingdom will come, that he will give us what we need and forgive us our sins as we forgive other people, and to help us from temptation and evil.

3. GET INVOLVED.

Being Christian is about belonging to God's community.

Jesus Christ is the head of the church – ‘church’ means a gathering of people – not a building. Most people think of church as a building (or cathedral) but the church is actually the people that gather inside those buildings. Jesus wants us to be part of his family and connected with our ‘brothers and sisters’ – we need to meet together to learn from each other, grow in our faith, pray together and share our lives with each other.

Finding a community (or church) to belong to like this is really important. There are people out there that know Jesus who can help us discover more about God. It might be a youth group, Christian discipleship group at school, bible study group, a Sunday church service (some churches run ‘worship’ times throughout the week too). There is heaps out there to go to – ask a leader or staff member or check out our website for links to churches and youth groups in your part of the world. This is a very important part of being a Christian – it's hard work all on your own! Coming to Wirraway is a great start into this community but it's not every week! God wants us to be connected with His church.

SO WHAT DOES GOD DO FOR US?

Jesus promises us his Spirit:

But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. *John 15:26*

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. *John 16:13.*

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"
Galatians 4:6

God's spirit can help us understand the truth – he helps us understand the bible and listen to what He wants for us in life. His Spirit helps us even when we don't know what to pray or how to pray (Romans 8:26-27).

There are many promises made for us in the bible.

Jesus promises to always be with us. (Matthew 28:20)

Whilst we may not 'feel' God always near us – we can know that he is.
We need to stick with him:

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. *John 15:5*

God gives us his Spirit as a promise:

And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. *2 Corinthians 1:21-22*

We are made new in Christ:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. *2 Corinthians 5:17*

The way we used to be fades in light of what Jesus has done for us – it's extraordinary! Jesus puts his Spirit of love in our heart and makes us new. His Spirit produces fabulous things in our lives:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. *Galatians 5:22-24.*

God's Spirit helps us and leads us – we just need to hand Him the control of our life and allow Him to change us!

We will sometimes fail to pray, read the bible and meet with other Christians – we need to remember that we are all under God's grace and forgiveness in Jesus. God can help us with those things that get in the way of our relationship with Him - and keep us from stumbling:

And now to him who can keep you on your feet, standing tall in his bright presence, fresh and celebrating—to our one God, our only Savior, through Jesus Christ, our Master, be glory, majesty, strength, and rule before all time, and now, and to the end of all time. Yes.
Jude 24-25 Message Bible