

A Seeker's Next Steps

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A *Seeker* is someone who is earnestly trying to get to know Jesus Christ by seeking him and searching for answers to the questions that are in the way. A *Christian* is a person who has intelligently tested the evidence and made a commitment to Jesus Christ, receiving him as the Forgiver and Leader of his or her life. A Christian then spends his or her life being transformed into Christlikeness, experiencing the incredible life God has planned, and sharing his or her story with those who are seeking to join the journey.

If you are a Seeker, here are some productive and important steps to assist you in moving along the journey toward a relationship with Christ:

○ **Acknowledge your entrance on the journey.** If you are seeking to know God, guess what. The God of the universe has been working in your life. Your desire to seek proves that God is interested in you, that he loves you, that he has incredible plans for you. The Bible tells us no one can even want to know God unless God is moving to draw him or her to himself (*No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him*, John 6:44). What a privileged position you are in!

○ **Identify the missing pieces.** You probably haven't become a Christ-follower yet because you still need something—evidence, answers, clarification, or some other missing piece. Write those down and then determine a way to find what you need. It is worth an all out search.

○ **Get connected.** God often works best through teams, and if you can join a team that will help you seek, you will find God quicker. *Igniter 101:Know* is a good starting point. Our C'nex Groups are terrific places to connect, find friends, and learn about God and the Christian experience. You can also get a River Guide, a River Valley member who would love to personally guide you along the process of discovering God and getting connected. Whatever you do, make sure you are in process with people who can help you find God.

○ **Check the cause and effect.** For every effect there is a cause. If you haven't already done it, you will begin to notice all sorts of interesting things happening around you. Remember, God cares more about loving you and getting you into a relationship with him than you do. He will be orchestrating people and events to help draw you. Just keep your eyes and ears open. Don't get weirded out by this, just notice the cause and effect. When circumstances lean a certain way, a song pops up on the radio, a person tells you a story, or some break you needed comes your way, consider that you might just be seeing God help you out. God will do whatever he has to in order to persuade you to accept him. He loves you that much to cause some positive or painful effects in your life.

○ **Share your journey.** While God is working with you, you will want to include other seekers on the journey with you. Go ahead and do that. Invite your friends to church, tell them about your experiences, pray for them and encourage them to join you on the journey toward a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

○ **Ultimately, give Christ your life.** There will be a day when you have all the questions answered that you need. You won't have all the answers, but you will have enough answers to take that importance step of faith. A relationship with Christ ultimately requires faith. At that time, you will need to seriously pray and in your own words tell God these ABCs:

Admit that God has not been first place in your life and ask Him to forgive your sins.

SAY: "God, I know I am a sinner, I have disappointed you, and I am sorry. Please forgive me of my sins."

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from every wrong. (1 John 1:9)

Believe that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that he rose again on Easter, and is alive today.

SAY: "God, I believe that you sent your Son, Jesus, to die for my sins as punishment for me. I believe he died and came back from the dead as proof that he had the power to forgive sins."

If you confess that Jesus is your Lord, and you believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name (Jesus) by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12)

Confess your life to following Christ by putting your trust in what Jesus did and making him the boss of your life.

SAY: "God, I give you control. I repent from my sins. I want you to be my leader and boss. As I learn how, I will follow your lead for the rest of my life."

God's gift of salvation is free. You don't need to earn it!

For it is by grace you are 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)

You must simply receive the gift by making him the boss. You must trust him with your life like a bungee jumper trusts the one who ties the bungee cord.

To all who receive him, he gives the right to become children of God. All we need to do is to trust him to save us. All who believe this are reborn! – not a physical rebirth . . . but from the will of God. (John 1:12-13)

Jesus says, "Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in." (Revelation 3:20)

This decision will involve all three critical parts of you: your intellect (you will understand), emotion (you will feel), and will (you will decide). When you confess and commit to Christ, you enter a relationship with him that will grow and last forever. You will have Christ's love and power while you live and you will be with him and all other believers in heaven after you die.

○ **Tell us.** When you end your seeking phase of the journey and begin the Christian phase, we want to celebrate with you and then equip you to live well with Christ. So, please tell us about the most important decision of your life.