

Following Jesus - Terms, Topics & Mission

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God

God's Glory: The display of His greatness, goodness, and beauty so that people are aware of Him.

Glorify God: Responding to God in the ways Scripture teaches.

Holiness: The essence of being set apart for God's purposes.

God's Sovereignty: Includes both God's power to do all that He wills and His rightful exercise of authority over His creation and His creatures.

Omniscience: God knows all things.

Omnipresence: God is everywhere at all times.

Grace: Being given what we don't deserve (e.g. eternal life).

Mercy: Not being given what we do deserve (e.g. hell)

Trinity: God is eternally one being, yet He exists eternally as three distinct persons: God the Father; God the Son; God the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is a term describing the Biblical revelation of God existing in three persons, being of one essence, identical in nature, and co-equal in attributes and perfections. Tri = three. Unity = one.

Jesus

Son of God: This is a title which means to have the "same nature" as God. In other words, Jesus is God in human form, equal in power and glory to God the Father and God the Spirit.

Son of Man: A phrase occurring in both Testaments, "Son of Man" was Jesus' favorite title for Himself. In the Old Testament it usually meant "human being". Jesus used this title as an alternative to calling Himself the Messiah.

Virgin Birth: Mary, the mother of Jesus, was a virgin when she conceived and gave birth to Jesus. The Holy Spirit brought about her pregnancy. This is significant because sin is passed through the seed of man.

Messiah: A title referring to the "Anointed One" promised by the Old Testament prophets. In Greek (New Testament), the same term is "Christ."

Kingdom of God: According to Jesus' teaching, the kingdom was both present and future. All who believe in and follow Him are already in the kingdom, yet the kingdom will be gloriously revealed at the return of Christ.

Atonement: The act of temporarily dealing with sin whereby sin's penalty is paid and forgiveness is extended from God to man. The sinner is brought into a right relation with God only through faith in God's provision for sin. Atonement is an Old Testament word used in connection with the offering of sacrifices to temporarily cover sins (i.e. "up to the moment"). Atonement is not something that man can achieve by his own efforts, but something that only God can provide. In the New Testament, Christ is the permanent, once-for-all, final payment for sin (propitiation). In short, atonement means to cover, cancel, or forgive sins.

Propitiation: Satisfaction of a requirement. To “propitiate” means to satisfy or appease. In this case, Christ’s once-for-all, perfect sacrifice for mankind’s sins propitiated (i.e. satisfied / appeased) God’s wrath and holy anger against sin. The literal translation is “the one who turns aside God’s wrath, taking away our sins”. Because God is completely satisfied with Christ’s perfect “sin offering”, there is no longer any sacrifice for sins needed. It is finished.

Resurrection: The resurrection of Jesus means His rising from the dead on the third day after His crucifixion, in bodily form, transformed so that His body can never die again. Evidence for His resurrection focuses on the empty tomb and the appearances of the living Christ. Resurrection can also represent God’s action in bringing a person back from spiritual death (lost) to spiritual life (salvation).

Firstborn: In ancient Israelite society the firstborn son had special rights that were highly valued. He was the head of the family in the father's absence, and upon his father's death he received an inheritance double that of the other sons. The firstborn could, however, lose his birthright, either by selling it or through misconduct. Because of the high status of the firstborn, the title developed a **figurative usage**. In Old Testament times, God considered the nation Israel to be his firstborn, his special people among all the nations of the world. In New Testament times, believers in Jesus Christ are God's firstborn, his privileged ones.

The Bible speaks of Jesus Christ as the firstborn of his Father. This does not mean that he came into existence later than his Father, but that he is head of the Father's new people (all believers). He has authority over them, yet he graciously looks upon them as his brothers and sisters.

Jesus is also the firstborn of all creation. This means not that the Son of God was created, but that he existed before creation, has authority over it, and is its rightful heir. Also, through his resurrection, Jesus is the firstborn from the dead. He has authority over God's new creation, the church, and guarantees its final victory.

Incarnation: Jesus’ becoming a human being in a specific time and place (while still being fully God). Jesus was fully man and fully God while here on earth - 100% perfect in both natures.

Redemption: To buy back or redeem.

Bible

Bible: Collection of 66 historical books that serve as God’s perfect revelation to mankind.

Revelation: How God communicates His truth.

Scripture: the sacred writings of Christianity contained in the Bible.

Manuscripts: Copies of the original writings.

God’s Law: All the righteous demands of God that reveal His holy commandments for His people, including moral, religious, and civil obligations.

Prophets: Spokesmen for God, with a message inspired by His Spirit that often included predictions about future events.

Bible Interpretation: God’s intended meaning for a verse or passage of Scripture. Jesus is the central theme of Scripture, and the Spirit guides a person to right interpretation.

Canon: Measuring stick, rule, standard. The canon is a list of authoritative books.

Testament: Covenant

Covenant: Binding agreement between two parties. The Old Testament is a bilateral covenant involving two parties: God and His people (Israel). It dealt mainly with blessings. The New Testament is a unilateral covenant (God alone) in which God brings forth the ultimate blessing - salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

Scroll: Roll of papyrus, parchment, or paper

Scribes: Specially trained people for copying manuscripts with precise copying rules and standards.

Translation: Copy of God's Word in other language (2,600+). The original Old Testament was written in Hebrew and Aramaic. The original New Testament was written in Greek.

Truth: Truth is absolute reality (true whether we believe it or not).

Inspired: God-breathed; God "carried along the human writers". Biblical inspiration refers to the work of the Holy Spirit by which He produces God's written word using the personality and literary skill of its human authors. The result is God's authoritative Word to mankind. God the Holy Spirit moved men to write in such a way to allow them to use their own language, style, and gifts within the context of their culture. The Holy Spirit overruled in the expression of thought and in the choice of words. This "guaranteed" that the writers recorded accurately all that God wanted them to say, and exactly how He wanted them to say it. The Bible is a harmony of the active mind of the writers and the sovereign direction of the Holy Spirit.

Infallible: 100% trustworthy.

Inerrant: 100% accurate.

Autographs: Original copies: inspired, infallible, inerrant. Autographs no longer available.

Dual Authorship: Authored by God; Written by humans.

Doctrine: Formal teaching. Christian doctrine is what truths to believe. Application is how to live.

Historical-Grammatical Method: Method of interpreting Scripture which centers on the historical context and the grammatical interpretation of a Bible passage or verse (i.e. "the text").

Inspiration of Scripture: Supernatural influence that gives God's authority and control to a human writer.

Orthodoxy: "Right belief" as opposed to "heresy" (wrong belief).

Prophecy: To accurately predict a future event or situation.

Creation / Science

God's Image: Humans resemble God in that they have personality, morality, and spirituality. They also are eternal beings. Sin has marred the image of God in everyone except Christ, but the image is not destroyed (and will one day be perfected again).

Miracle: Powerful intervention by God in which ordinary laws of nature are suspended. Miracles supernaturally display the presence, power, and purpose of God. Miracles also are intended to authenticate the messenger and message of God. Type of miracles: power over death, hell, disease, nature.

Sabbath: Rest.

Micro-Evolution: Adaptations, variations or changes in genes within the same “kind” (e.g. different kinds of dogs; different kinds of birds). This is true biblical / scientific fact.

Macro-Evolution: When one “kind” changes into a new “kind” with a gain in beneficial genetic information. This is Darwin’s false belief system (e.g. dogs become cats). This is false; has never been observed; and has zero evidence.

Scientific Laws: Statements based on repeated experiments or observations that describe some aspect of the natural world. For example, below are three critical scientific laws:

#1 - Life only comes from existing life (Law of Biogenesis).

➤ Life cannot originate on its own from natural processes. It’s impossible.

#2 - Something material cannot create something non-material.

➤ Materialism and natural processes can’t create immaterial entities.

#3 - Information, thoughts, logic, conscience, and morality are just several examples of immaterial entities that exist.

➤ They have no mass, which means they are immaterial.

➤ Since information is immaterial, it can’t originate from natural or material processes.

➤ In other words, information must come from a supernatural source.

What does all of this mean?

- Science has never observed macro-evolution happening (past or present).
- The foundation for Darwinian evolution is materialism, naturalism, and random, chance processes. None of these can produce a non-material entity like information.
- For Darwinian evolution to be true, an increase in beneficial genetic information is required in order for one kind to change into a new, more complex kind.
- The DNA Code Barrier + Gene Depletion + Natural Selection make Darwinian evolution impossible.
- DNA is the genetic software system that is required for life to exist. Each DNA molecule contains billions of pieces of coded information.
- Since information is immaterial and specified, it can’t be the result of materialism and random, naturalistic processes.
- By definition, the information in DNA must be from a supernatural mind.
- Materialism claims that only matter and energy exist, and that the universe and everything in it (including life) was created by natural processes. This is impossible based on the observable scientific evidence.
- These logical conclusions destroy naturalistic and materialistic claims for the origin of life, and prove with certainty that the philosophy of materialism and naturalism are false, including Darwinian evolution.

Why science affirms the Bible:

1. Science involves the search for knowledge based on interpreting available evidence.
2. No **proven** scientific fact (using experiments that are observable, measurable, and repeatable) has ever contradicted the Bible. Christians embrace and value science.
3. Non-life **never** produces life, not even by adding time and chance.
4. DNA and the living cell are so complex (irreducible complexity) that it’s impossible for them to have formed and evolved on their own.
5. Micro-evolution (adaptation) **is** a proven scientific fact.
6. Macro-evolution (Darwin) is not science. It is a philosophical / religious belief system.
7. Evolutionists and secular humanists often try to blur those two lines, but they are fundamentally distinct.

8. Mutations and natural selection are simply quality control measures for a gene pool. They will **NEVER** create change where one “kind” (e.g. dog) becomes a new “kind” (e.g. cat) where an **addition** or **increase** in *beneficial*, genetic information is required.
 9. ‘Molecules-to-man’ (Darwinian) evolution is a belief system, not a scientific fact.
 10. Science can only measure the **natural / material world**, not the supernatural world (including miracles), or historical events (including those found in the Bible, or those relating to the origin of life and the universe).
 11. Science and history confirm the Bible, including the **greatest miracle** of all: The universe had a beginning, and was created out of nothing (by a creator).
 12. Darwinian evolution depicts an “upward” complexity change in the universe, but the scientific evidence shows a “downward” progression (1st / 2nd Laws of Thermodynamics).
 13. The scientific evidence most logically points to the existence of God, not away from Him.
- **Creation:** Time, space, matter & energy came into existence out of nothing. Creation requires a Creator.
 - **Design:** The complexities found in life (cell), the universe, and the laws of nature require a designer.
 - **Morality:** We all know right from wrong. A moral law exists.
 - **Miracles:** Creation, resurrection of Jesus, etc. There is evidence in science and history to verify these.
 - **Immaterial Entities:** Logic, reason, mind, will, emotions, conscience, personality, information, etc.

Sin

Sin: To “miss the mark”; failing. A deviation or transgressions of God’s will.

Original Sin: When Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden (i.e. the fall of humanity), their nature was damaged or distorted. Their descendants (all humans after them) have been born in a sinful condition as a result of the sin that has passed through the generation via the seed of man.

Depravity: Human tendency toward evil. We are unable to fix our problem (sin). Man has sinned and is therefore under the judgment of God. He is guilty, the penalty is death, and there is no way he can, by his own efforts, escape this penalty. He is cut off from God and there is no way he can bring himself back to God. God, however, gives man a way by which he may obtain forgiveness and be brought back to God. This is through the blood of a sacrifice, where blood is symbolic of the life of the innocent victim laid down as substitute for the guilty sinner.

Rebellion: A willful transgression of a known law of God. Rebellion is what separates mankind from God and reaps the result of guilt and eternal condemnation.

Satan (Devil): Supernatural spirit creature that is hostile toward God and God’s children. He leads a host of other spirit beings in opposing God by tempting, accusing, leading astray, and other means. Although powerful, he is not equal to God and does not threaten God’s sovereignty or power.

Demon: Wicked spirit creatures who (like Satan) opposed God. They are also called unclean spirits, evil spirits, and angels who sinned (therefore, fallen angels). There is only one Devil, but there are multitudes of demons.

Hell: The final place and condition of unregenerate humans (and evil spirits) in which they consciously suffer everlasting punishment, separated from God forever. This is known as spiritual death. It is a place of spiritual, psychological, and bodily torment from which there will never be hope of release.

Death: Separation. Physical death is the separation of our soul / spirit from our physical body. Spiritual death is the separation of our soul / spirit from God. Humans are born spiritually dead and thus must be “born again” (i.e. spiritually).

Salvation

Gospel: “Good news.” The Gospel in Scripture refers mainly to the message that through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, God graciously acted to establish His kingdom and now welcomes into His family sinners who turn from their unbelief and receive Christ by faith.

Justification: God’s judicial declaration that a sinner who believes in Christ is counted righteous instead of guilty based on Jesus’ death on his or her behalf. Christ’s righteousness is imputed (reckoned) to the sinner just as God imputed sin to Christ on the cross. In short: Saved from the penalty of sin.

Adoption: God grants full family status and benefits, such as access to the Father and a spiritual inheritance, to all who are justified. The emphasis is on a personal relationship with God. New birth shows that God gives life to those who are spiritually dead; adoption shows that God makes believers his special possession and gives them the full status of mature adult sons. This is possible only through the death of Jesus Christ, and it is true only of those who have faith in him. As sons of God, believers enjoy the spiritual privilege of access to God and inherit here and now his spiritual blessings. They can look forward to the full and unhindered enjoyment of these blessings at the return of Jesus Christ. To illustrate further, in Roman culture a son or daughter born naturally into a family could be given away if the parents changed their mind. In contrast, if a son or daughter was adopted into a family, they were given permanent family privileges and could never be given away. In essence, to be adopted (chosen) by a family carried more significance than being physically birthed into a family.

Salvation: God’s work that delivers a person from the consequences of their sin. Salvation results when we ‘turn from our **unbelief** in Jesus’ in order to be saved from our sins by receiving ‘new life in Christ’. Salvation is not the result of what we do, but rather, it’s the result of receiving by faith (trusting) what Jesus has done for us. Salvation is not us giving our life to Jesus; it’s Jesus giving his life to us. Salvation is turning from self-righteousness to Jesus’ righteousness. Obedience and good works are never the means by which we acquire or keep salvation. They are a result and evidence of salvation.

Discipleship

Disciple: A follower. A disciple of Jesus is simply one who follows Jesus.

Sanctification: The work of God in bringing the whole nature of a person more and more under the control and influence of the Holy Spirit. Sanctification is the process or result of being made holy. Places, things, and persons set apart for God and His use are “sanctified.” God’s holiness includes moral perfection; thus, holy persons are becoming more God-like or Christ-like in in day-to-day life. In short: Saved from the power of sin.

Baptism: The post-salvation act where one is publicly immersed in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit, symbolizing new life in Christ. It also symbolically represents Christ’s own death, burial, and resurrection.

Spiritual Gifts: At the time of the new spiritual birth, the Holy Spirit gives one or more special abilities to the believer, enabling him or her to build up other believers in the context of the local congregation. All believers are responsible for discovering, developing, and using their spiritual gifts.

Fruit of the Spirit: Refers to the character traits that God produces in the life of a believer as they mature. The Spirit produces these fruit; we bear the fruit. The fruit as listed in Galatians 5:22-23 include: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

End Times

Glorification: God's work of transforming believers at death so that all sin is removed and they are fit to be in His presence. Glorification also includes the moment where the believer receives God's gift of the resurrection body - received by believers only at Christ's return. In short: Saved from the presence of sin.

Rapture: The teaching that believers living at Christ's return will not miss the resurrection, but will be caught up alive to meet the Lord in the air, transformed into a resurrection state without going through the experience of bodily death.

Tribulation: Refers to affliction, hardship, or suffering brought against God's people - either by life's circumstances or by evil forces. The "great tribulation" refers to end times troubles.

Wrath: Refers to God's righteous anger against sin and evil.

Second Coming: Refers to the personal, visible, bodily, victorious return of Jesus Christ to earth as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Millennium: This refers to the 1000-year reign of Christ on earth (with his people) when he restores the kingdom to Israel and reigns as king for 1000 years. This will occur after the second coming and before the white throne judgment of unbelievers and the new heavens and new earth. (This is the pre-tribulation, pre-millennial view)

Final Judgment: Jesus Christ (God) will bring about the final verdict on all human beings, resulting in one of two eternal destinies: eternal joy in the presence of God (heaven) or eternal misery cast away from all hope of God and good (hell).

Heaven: The supernatural location of God's presence displayed far beyond the earth, where the holy angels worship Him. After the last judgment and the renewal of all things, God will manifest His presence among the redeemed (believers in Jesus Christ) in the "New Jerusalem."

Miscellaneous Terms

Body: The physical creation by God that houses our soul and spirit. The physical body is the temple of the Holy Spirit for those who have been born again. The body is also called "the flesh" in the Bible – has indwelling sin living in it.

Soul: Our mind, will and emotions.

Spirit: The part of our being that relates to God.

Body of Christ: Christ and the church (all believers), being inseparably united, make up one complete whole, just as the head and the body together make up one complete person.

Faith: Trust, reliance, and confidence (in Christ). In the original language of the New Testament, the noun 'faith' and the verb 'believe' are different parts of the same word. Although faith involves belief, by far the most important

characteristic of faith in a biblical sense is reliance, or trust. Faith in a biblical sense is not blind faith. Instead, it's a faith based on revealed evidence.

Theocracy: Nation governed by God (Israel)

Israel: The nation of Israel was chosen by God to be his spiritual representatives on earth in the Old Testament. They also were uniquely chosen as the lineage from which Christ would be born. Israelites are also known as "Hebrews", "The Jewish People", or "The Jews".

Natural Israel: Anyone born into the Hebrew family by natural birth.

Spiritual Israel: Anyone who placed their faith in the God of Israel for salvation. Sometimes referred to as "the remnant" in the Bible.

Abraham: Father of the Israelite nation. He is also the spiritual father of all who accept God's promises by faith, regardless of their nationality.

High Priest: The high priest was one who represented the people of God to God. In ancient Israel there was only one high priest chosen to represent the entire nation before God in worship.

Gentiles: Any non-Jewish nation / people

Samaritans: Mixed race: Jews & Gentiles

Sanhedrin: Jewish Supreme Court in biblical times.

Pharisees: Powerful Jewish religious / political group that opposed Jesus and his followers.

Sadducees: Bitter enemies of the Pharisees and Jesus (as well as his followers).

Repent: To change one's mind. Biblical repentance is a '**change of mind**' where we agree with God about our deadly sin problem (acknowledging our inability to fix our problem); our recognition that **Jesus is God**, and the only way to heaven; our desperate need to **trust Jesus alone** for salvation & eternal life. We move from our ways and ideas of salvation over to **God's (one) way**.

Light: Represents God and life.

Darkness: Represents evil and death.

Confess: To admit; agree; same the same thing as.

Predestination: God has marked out ahead of time or predetermined certain things that shall come to pass. In particular, God has predetermined what will happen to a person once they place their trust (faith) in Jesus Christ for eternal life. Among other things, they will be declared holy and righteous, and will be adopted into God's family. They also become eternally saved: justified, sanctified & glorified.

Foreknowledge: Man's knowledge is governed by his awareness of a past, present and future, but God's knowledge is not related to a sequence of events that he must experience in a world of time and space. When the Bible speaks of God's foreknowledge it means more than merely that he knows what will happen.

Election: The Scripture speaks of the election of individuals to office or to honor and privilege. For example, Abraham, Jacob, Saul, David, Solomon, the apostles, and others were all chosen by God for the positions they held (roles of service). There is also an election of Israel for special privileges as God's chosen people. Also, today the church (body of Christ) is elected to be God's spiritual representatives on earth.

Elect: Those who put their faith in trust (believe) in Jesus for forgiveness of sins (once for all) and eternal life. The "elect" are also known as the church (all believers in Jesus Christ).

Chosen: God does not choose some people to be saved while choosing others for eternal damnation. However, God does freely choose people and nations roles and services to accomplish his purpose and mission.

Regeneration: God's act of making a person alive spiritually. This is the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit by which sinners are given new spiritual life enabling them to relate to God in faith, love, obedience, and delight. Also known as being "born again".

Legalism: Legalism anything that bases one's acceptance before God on how well one conforms to a set of rules, regulations, or standards. This can take the following forms, all of which are performance-based:

1. An unsaved person trying to attain/earn their salvation.
2. A saved person, who believes they CAN lose their salvation, trying to maintain their salvation (usually through a daily ritual of confession, repentance, forgiveness, and cleansing).
3. A saved person, who believes they CANNOT lose their salvation, trying to maintain their "fellowship" with God (usually through a daily ritual of confession, repentance, forgiveness, and cleansing).
4. A saved person judging others for not meeting certain rules, regulations, or standards.

Prayer: Talking to God.

Intercession: Prayer or intervention on behalf of another person.

Mediator: Go-between; one who intervenes between two parties to bring reconciliation. Jesus Christ (God the Son) was the mediator between God the Father and humanity.

Righteousness: Being in right relationship with God and other people.

Heart: In a biblical sense the heart is typically descriptive imagery that represents a person's "mission control center", entire being, or soul (i.e. the center). Heart in a biblical sense does not represent the physical organ.

Apostle: One who is sent out. In the New Testament, there are two primary usages of the word apostle. The first refers to the 12 apostle of Jesus Christ. The second refers generically to other individuals who are sent out to be messengers or ambassadors of Jesus Christ.

Prophet: A prophet in the Bible was someone who was used by God to communicate His message to the world.

Belief Systems

Christianity: Jesus is God. His work alone makes salvation possible (it is done).

All Other Religions: Work your way to God (you need to do something to earn God's favor or love).

Pantheism: Everything is God.

Secular Humanism: Humans are God.

Naturalism: There is no God (universe and life created itself and evolved).

Materialism: There is no God (only matter / energy exist - no supernatural).

Postmodernism: God is whoever you want him to be (no absolute truth).

Theism: One personal God who created the universe but who is not part of the universe (but He does interact with it).
In short: God made all.

Pantheism / Polytheism: Impersonal God(s) that literally IS / ARE the universe. In short: God is all.

Atheism: Does not believe in any type of God, but rather materialism and natural processes, including evolution. In short: No God at all.

Important Fact: Similar to a legal investigation, when we examine every known religious belief system and book by applying the bibliographical test (**accuracy of manuscripts**) and the internal/external evidence test (**factual truth and trustworthiness**), the Bible is the ONLY religious book that passes the test of historicity with 100% perfection. Why is this important? It means that the Bible and Christianity represents the one (and only) true belief system.

4 Reasons People Reject Jesus (God)

(...and what we can do to help.)

<u>Reason</u>	<u>A Christian's Responsibility</u>
1. Intellectual:	Provide evidence (apologetics)
2. Emotional Pain / Guilt:	Share God's love
3. Never Been Asked:	Share Jesus (Gospel)
4. Conscious Choice:	Pray for them

Keys to Understanding the Bible

- Although all of Scripture was written for us, not all is written to us.
- This is important in understanding the meanings of Bible passages.
- The Bible is primarily addressed to four (4) general groups of people:
 - Jewish people: Nation of Israel; Israelites; God's chosen people
 - Gentiles: Everyone else (any non-Jewish person)
 - Individual believers: Born-again followers of Jesus (NT)
 - Church: Entire body of Christ; all born-again followers of Jesus (NT)

What do we mean by God's Chosen People (Israelites)?

- a. The nation (group of people) through whom God chose to reveal himself.
- b. The nation that God chose to bless through obedience.
- c. The nation that would represent God on earth (priests, prophets, etc.).
- d. The nation that would be Holy (set apart for God).
- e. The nation (lineage) through which God would bring the Messiah (Jesus).

Purpose of the Bible

2 Timothy 3:15-17 (NLT)

¹⁵You have been taught the Holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. ¹⁷God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

Snapshot: The purpose of the Bible is three-fold:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. How to be made right with God. | Salvation |
| 2. How to know Jesus more intimately. | Discipleship |
| 3. How we should invest our lives. | Great Commission |

What Does it Mean to Repent?

- Biblical repentance as it relates to salvation is:
 - NOT a willingness to turn from sin - we're sinners by birth, nature & choice.
 - NOT the act of turning from our sins. We need 'new life'. We need to be born again.
 - NOT doing good works or obeying God. Our efforts can't remove sin.
- Biblical repentance is a '**change of mind**' where a person agrees with God about:
 - Their deadly sin problem - acknowledging their inability to fix the problem.
 - Their recognition that Jesus is God, and the only way to heaven.
 - Their desperate need to trust Jesus alone for salvation & eternal life.
 - That person moves from their ways and ideas of salvation over to God's (one) way.
- Salvation results when a person 'turns from their unbelief in Jesus' in order to be saved from their sins by receiving '**new life in Christ**'. (John 16:8-9, 2 Cor. 5:21)
- Salvation is not the result of what we do, but rather, it's the result of receiving by faith (trusting) what Jesus has done for us. (Titus 3:3-7)
- It's not us giving our life to Jesus; it's Jesus giving his life to us.
- Repentance is turning from self-righteousness to Jesus' righteousness.
- Obedience and good works are never the means by which we acquire or keep salvation. They are a result and evidence of salvation. (Gal. 5, Luke 3)

Salvation Process

Step 1: God's Responsibility

- God convicts you of sin (makes you aware of your hopeless condition).

Step 2: Your Responsibility

- Believe - trust in Jesus (God) for eternal life.
John 16:8-9 & Rom 6:23

Steps 3-5:God's Responsibility

➤ Justification:	God saves you from the penalty of sin.	Hell
➤ Sanctification:	Saves you from the power of sin.	Holy
➤ Glorification:	Saves you from the presence of sin.	Heaven

Salvation begins and ends with God. Our only role is to believe (trust) in Jesus.

New Covenant

The following key Biblical truths are central to the New Covenant (which replaced the Old Covenant):

- The sin issue between God and man is over. It is finished.
- The only sin that keeps people from going to heaven and having eternal life is unbelief in Jesus Christ (i.e. rejection of God's gift of salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ).
- Once a person is saved by God (i.e. receives eternal life), he / she can never be lost.
- God is no longer dealing with man on the basis of sin and death. He is dealing with man on the basis of a new life and a new identity - found only in Jesus Christ.

Helpful Bible Study Questions

1. Is what I'm reading Old Covenant or New Covenant?
2. When, where, why, and to whom is the passage written?
3. Is God teaching, rebuking, correcting, or training?
4. Is there anything that I need to study further?
5. Is what I'm reading descriptive or prescriptive?
6. How can I apply this to my life? (Trust God to change my actions, character, priorities, or thoughts.)

Personal Examination Questions

Remember that God loves you **unconditionally**. Getting to heaven or being accepted by God has nothing to do with your day-to-day performance. Likewise, growing as a Christian isn't about religion or a list of do's & don'ts - it's about a **personal relationship** with God.

As we study God's Word (the Bible) and rely on God's Spirit to guide us (the Holy Spirit), we'll naturally obey the New Testament commands to love God and love people selflessly and sacrificially. Our goal as believers is to allow God to live through us so that our 'new life in Christ' reflects the character and priorities of Jesus.

When you fall short, simply acknowledge it to God (confess), thank God for His forgiveness (which was a one-time event when you placed your faith and trust in Jesus for salvation), and then refocus your life on Jesus (rather than yourself).

The questions below are not a legalistic list. Instead, they're directional in nature to help us stay grounded in Christ:

1. This past week, I'm most **thankful to God** for _____.
2. Am I spending **quality time** with God through daily prayer, Bible study, and solitude?
3. Has any **bitterness** or **pride** formed in my heart?
4. When did I last **talk about Jesus** with a non-Christian?
5. Did I hurt anyone this week with my **thoughts, words, actions** - or lack thereof? How did I make amends?

6. In general, am I allowing **God's Spirit** to lead my life (Gal. 5:22-23), or am I relying on my power (flesh)? In other words, is the Holy Spirit controlling my thoughts, emotions, desires, decisions and attitudes?
7. To show a genuine interest in others, do I normally **ask questions** and **listen** more than I talk?
8. Am I using my life for **God's glory**? (spiritual gifts, time, money, talents, decisions, teaching people about Jesus)
9. Am I taking care of **my health** through proper eating, sleeping, and exercise habits?
10. Who can I **love** today? (offer godly advice, forgive, pray for, meet needs, encourage, disciple, teach, etc.)

Believer's Daily Mission

Jesus instructs his followers to "Go" and "Make Disciples" by teaching people how to:

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| 1. Get right with God (forever): | Believe God | Salvation | One Time |
| 2. Rest in God's grace: | Trust God | Relationship | Daily |
| 3. Love God & each another: | Glorify God | Discipleship | Daily |

More Helpful Resources

God's Spirit, God's Word, and God's people are the primary resources for growing closer to Jesus. Systematic tools can be helpful as well. For free resources that you can use with others, visit: <http://tiny.cc/whytrustjesus>