

How to Be Born Again:

Receive God's Rightness Once and for All

Anyone who wants to experience God's love and acceptance can have it. Since he doesn't allow hurt, he needs to take away our shame for the hurtful things we've done to ourselves and others. Because God loves his world so much, it hurts him when we hurt each other. We can't make up for our wrongs- but we can let him take our place in the pain (through his torture on the cross). Here's how he explains this in Bible:

Romans 3:10 – As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 3:23 – For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 5:8 – But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is **death**; but the gift of God is **eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 10:9-10 – **...If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:13 – For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Jesus Christ suffered gladly on the cross for you, personally. With all his heart, he wants you to believe that his death paid for each of your wrong choices. Because of this, you can be just as pure in the Father's sight as he is. You never have to worry about being rejected by God again. All you have to do is receive this gift. Say "yes" to his death and resurrection in your place. (And say "yes" to God helping your heart to believe it.)

The moment your heart says "yes," to him, you are **saved**. Your spirit has been born into a new life. You will go to heaven when you die, and nothing can **ever** take this away.



Now That You're a Christian

Welcome to Christianity! It's so simple to be born again, but it's the most important decision ever. In the bold words on the previous page, the Bible gave us two steps for being saved from eternal death. The first step was to "confess" the Lord Jesus with your mouth, which means to thank him for being sacrificed on the cross for you. (Thank him out loud! And, let me know at sararuth@sophiculture.com if you just received this gift!)

The second step you took was to believe that God raised Jesus from the dead. Think about it. Would it do any good to believe that Jesus loved you if you never got to know him (because he was dead)? He took the pain for every one of our sins, and was dead in a tomb for three days. But since he is God, death had no power over him. That's where the Trinity comes in. The one God exists in three persons: a Father, a Son and a Holy Spirit. After Jesus the Son died, the Father raised him from the dead. After living for several weeks on earth, he went directly to heaven. He's there now, preparing a beautiful home for everyone who's joining his family. The Holy Spirit is Jesus' way of being in silent conversations with all of the Christians on earth simultaneously.

Think about how many people believe these miracles and communicate with God daily. You can ask God for a group of Christians that will show you how to get to know him better. As you consider joining a church, look for people who are eager to talk about what God's doing in their lives. Ask them if they believe that the Bible is God's perfect word, without any errors. If so, this is a good place to start growing as a baby Christian.

Remember that other Christians are often immature in their growth, just like you are. As God's children, we don't always get along together. Stuff happens. What's important is that we look through each others' imperfect love to see glimpses of our Father God's perfect love. Becoming a Christian doesn't solve all of our problems. It gives us a perfect friend to go to in prayer when people let us down. We love others with his love.

Join [The Sophiculture Circle](#) to make friends who can help you to find out what God is doing in your life. Be sure to let us know right away if this is your first time receiving Jesus as your savior! We're so, so, so happy that you've joined our family 🥰.



How to Overcome Your Doubts

God speaks to us through the Bible to answer any doubts that we might have:

“What if I stopped believing or following God? Would I go to hell?”

It's normal to question whether or not you were truly saved from eternal death (and even to wonder if God is really real). To resolve this question, ask him for reassurance and then read what he said. Jesus said this: “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.” -Jn 10:28-29

The fact is that nothing and no one can get you un-born-again, not even you.

“What if I do something unforgivable and lose my salvation?”

Jesus declared all sins forgivable except one: insulting the Holy Spirit. He said this: “All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.” -Mt 12:31

That makes sense, because a non-Christian has to believe the Holy Spirit's message in order to be born again (spiritual salvation). So if they insult and reject him, they're rejecting this opportunity. Obviously, those who reject salvation can't get saved. That's why it's unforgivable, because you need salvation in order to be forgiven. Once you've been saved, you're already forgiven, and this is irrelevant. (You can **always** choose to accept salvation as long as you're alive on earth, even if you've rejected it in the past.)

How do I know that heaven will really be better than life on earth?

You know this because you feel deeply that you were created for more than this life. Think about the things that bring you happiness: friendship, beauty, wonder, power and delight. If God designed you for these things, he'll provide them. The Bible describes this “knowing” as God's Spirit being a witness to our spirit that we're his.



“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; **heirs of God**, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that **the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.**” -Rom 8:16-19

We won't take the time right now to examine how the Bible describes our future home, but we know we will have new bodies (with no more pain), mansions, feasting and fun things to do as creative partners with Jesus. Considering that our beautiful earth is a tiny sample of his power, you could say that the sky's no limit.

"Am I going to feel regret in heaven because of my earthly choices?"

Each of us has our own God-given mission to use our talents to fulfill his plan for our life here on earth. Each of us also has difficulties that give us the humility we need to stay focused on partnering with God. No one else's story is comparable to yours. Each one is entirely unique.

As you live your story in conversation with God, you will begin to notice that your thoughts are improving. The Bible says to “**be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” -Rom 12:3

Your new thoughts and experiences will show you that God is changing all of the wrongness in your body, soul and spirit into the best possible outcome for you. In heaven you will never feel the pain of regretting your earthly mistakes, or of being jealous of other people's rewards. You will likely be building and creating and enjoying everyone else, all without any stress, boredom, drawbacks or regrets.

Other doubts will come up in your mind from time to time. This is normal. Give your doubts over to God, who knows exactly what you are struggling with. Trust that he will personally resolve them with his love as you learn and grow. The big picture that he is painting will all come together, stroke by stroke by stroke.



How to Make Your Reading Plan

Author Justin Johnson recommends starting your reading with Paul's curriculum:

1. **Romans:** Laying a doctrinal foundation; instilling right doctrine
2. **Corinthians:** Producing good works under grace; moving people to act
3. **Galatians:** Walking in the Spirit, not under law
4. **Ephesians:** The nature and mission of the church
5. **Philippians:** The mind of Christ; instruction in maturity
6. **Colossians:** Operating complete in Christ
7. **Thessalonians:** Comfort and hope waiting for the return of the Lord
8. **1 Timothy/ Titus:** Teaching and leadership instructions
9. **Philemon:** Paul's example of charity
10. **2 Timothy:** Final words for faithful men

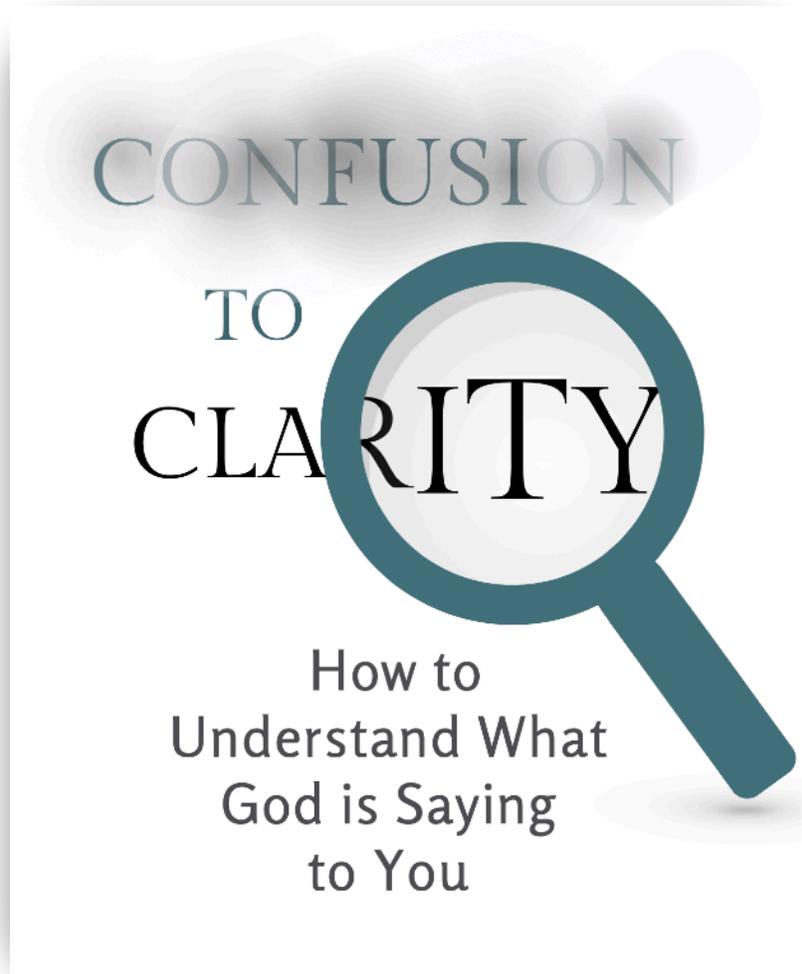
You can see the natural doctrinal progression as you read through Paul's epistles that ends with the man of God being thoroughly furnished (2 Timothy 3:17). Every book fits somewhere in the Pauline curriculum... **Identify where you are in your growth, and start your study there.** Don't know where you are? Start at the beginning. Do not quit, and you will be able to teach others also (2 Tim 2:2)."

-Justin Johnson, *Start Rightly Dividing*, page 100

In order to get used to writing in your Bible, **get** a hard copy of the KJV and a pencil (or an app like **Logos** that lets you highlight and annotate). Read until you see something that has meaning for you and then underline (or highlight) it. Underline at least one verse each day. Talk with God about it. You can gain understanding and friendships in **The Sophiculture Circle** to feed your new life in Jesus Christ.



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