

## Why do I NEED to follow Jesus?

If I had all the answers and the well-designed roadmap for life then everything would be working out fine for me. BUT, it isn't! Sometimes life stinks. Sometimes I mess up. Many times I get this lost feeling and just want to give up and be like everyone else. After all, they are not trying to do anything but go with the flow and it seems they have it made! It just doesn't seem fair.

### Is there a better path?

When I hear about my friends, the preacher, or someone else talking about a "better life" I am curious but always cautious. If it really was better wouldn't everyone catch on?

However, when I read in the Bible about being a "new creature" and starting over, then it starts to sink home! I need a fresh start and a different life.

**2 Corinthians 5:17(NIV)** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

**1 Peter 1:23(NIV)** *For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.*

### If I follow the word of God is that the same as following Jesus?

I recognize the Bible is the word of God. I also know Jesus is the Son of God. So if I read and follow what the Bible says then I will be following Jesus. Jesus also said that we can know God by knowing Him (**John 8:19**).

### Is just reading my Bible enough?

**Romans 10:17(NIV)** *Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*

**Hebrews 11:6(NIV)** *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.* Looks like faith is necessary to please God and if it is pleasing to God it will be pleasing to Jesus. As I understand faith, it means really believing in something or Someone so strongly that I do whatever is asked.

## How I do to follow Jesus?

**John 14:15(NIV)** *If you love me, you will obey what I command.*

I absolutely do love Him. So then I choose to obey whatever He commands. Obviously, His commands are what are in the New Testament.

I read that Jesus said in **Matthew 7:24(NIV)** *Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.*

I hear, then I do. Simple enough.

**Luke 15:7(NIV)** *I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.*

Repent, as in be really sorry for my sins and trying really hard to never go there again.

**Matthew 10:32(NIV)** *Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.*

Acknowledge or confess Jesus as the Son of God and take the stand that He is to be my Savior and the ruler of my life. No longer with me in charge - He must be the Pilot!

**Mark 16:16(NIV)** *Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.*

Understanding, repenting, confessing, and finally being baptized. So simple and straightforward! I don't claim to understand WHY, other than He said to do it and therefore I must do it. The real understanding will come later, most likely. See also **Mark 16:16** and **1 Peter 3:21**.)

### Bottom line, how does following Jesus impact my daily living?

I look at the pattern of Jesus and how He treated the people around him and that sets a perfect pattern for me! Will I ever be perfect like He is? Not as long as Satan is messing with me, and I know that will be as long as I live.

**Romans 12:2(NIV)** *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be*

able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**Galatians 5:22-24(NIV)** *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.*

WOW. Transformed; renewed mind; loving; joyous; at peace; patient; kind; good; faithful; gentle; self-controlled - tall order, especially from where I am now!

Is that all? Read **Romans 12:9-21** for a good summary of living daily as a Christian and read **1 Corinthians 13:4-8** for what true love looks like.

**What if I mess up again?**

**1 John 1:7(NIV)** *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

That makes me have hope! As long as I am trying every day to walk and follow Jesus and living in the patterns I find in the Bible then I can get forgiven all the time. What a relief!!!

**COUNT ME IN!**

**I am ready to learn more.**

**What is my next step?**

**We are here to help you!**

We would sincerely like the opportunity to talk with you more about this subject and share what God's word says about it. As Jesus said, **John 8:32(NIV)** " *Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*"

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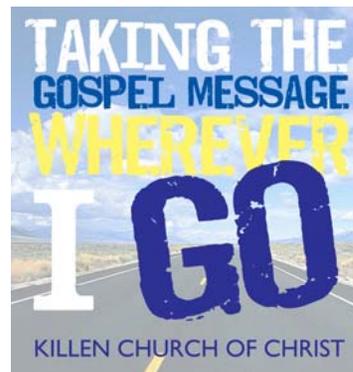
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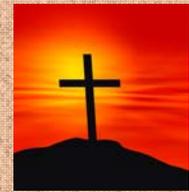
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