

PURPOSE CHURCH  
MURRAY--KENTUCKY



\*\*\* ***NEW***

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***BELIEVERS***

***GUIDE***



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**THIS NEW BELIEVERS GUIDE  
BELONGS TO**



**FULL NAME**



# CONGRATS



# ***I HAVE DECDED***

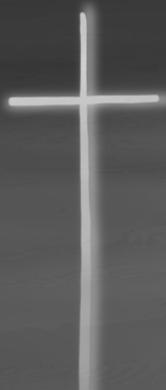
You've said "YES" to follow JESUS. You have just made the most important decision of your life. In fact, your life will never be the same again, and that is a great thing!

Following Jesus is a journey--one that will continue for all eternity. You will grow and mature in your personal relationship with Him, but that does not mean you have to do this journey alone. It within the context of community that true liberty takes place. The people you surround yourself with will either bring you closer to Jesus or distract you from the purpose He has for your life.

**THIS GUIDE IS INTENDED TO BE A  
RESOURCE FOR YOU TO GAIN A BETTER  
UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH  
AND TO PROVIDE DIRECTION FOR YOUR  
NEXT STEPS OF YOUR JOURNEY**

***"CHRISTIANITY IS AN  
INDIVIDUAL DECISION,  
BUT A TEAM SPORT!"***

# ***WHAT IS SALVATION?***



## WHAT IS SALVATION?

Salvation is a gift from God. You are saved from the eternal consequences of your sin and given eternal life.

Salvation is about what God has already done for you – not what you can do for Him.

## HOW AM I SAVED?

Ephesians 2:8 says *“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is a gift of God.”*

**You have been saved by the grace of Jesus through faith;** not because of anything you have done but rather, because of what He did for you when He died on the cross and rose again.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO BE SAVED?

Romans 10:9 says, *“If you declare with your mouth that ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”*

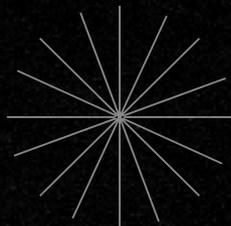
Salvation is when you turn away from sin, repent, believe, and confess that Jesus is Lord. You don't have to work for salvation, you can simply believe for salvation.

# **WHY FOLLOW JESUS?**

THE WAY

THE LIFE

THE TRUTH



## WHY IS FOLLOWING JESUS THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION I'LL EVER MAKE?

Surrendering your life to Jesus is the greatest decision you can ever make. Through Jesus, you are given a living hope.

(1 Peter 1 :3-6) Your sin is forgiven and your relationship with God has been restored.

Salvation begins the process we call sanctification. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

This means that **your former way of life has ended, and a new life with Jesus has begun.** No longer are you bound to past mistakes or failures: you now live in the freedom that Jesus brings.

Finally, making Jesus Lord of your life gives you direct access to God the Father. According to John 14:6, " Jesus told them, 'I am the way the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me'."

Jesus is, in fact, the only way to the Father and the only way to receive salvation. Accepting Him gives you access to everything that God has for you.

AS YOU START TO UNDERSTAND WHAT SALVATION IS, YOU WILL LIKELY BE LED TO ASK MORE QUESTIONS.

Why is there sin in the first place?

Why did Jesus need to die for my sins?

Why do I accept the gift rather than earn it?

In order to gain a deeper understanding of God's plan, not just for your life, but for all of humanity, you have to become a student of His Word.

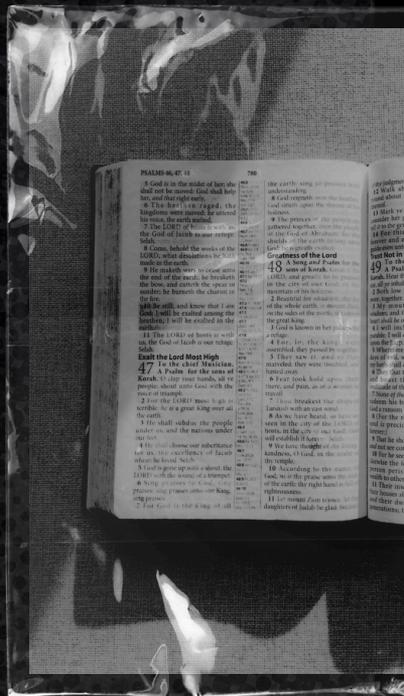
"Oh, what joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do." Psalms 1:1-3

**The Bible is the living word of God.** Every part of it is divinely inspired and written. It is how He speaks to us. It tells us His story--and our part within that story

**JESUS  
IS OUR  
POINT**



# WHAT IS GOD'S WORD?



## THE BIBLE IS FULLY INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND GOD-BREATHED.

The Bible is the living word of God, written by faithful men chosen by God under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. While humans were the vessels God used to write down the passages, the truth of the Bible did not come from human understanding or knowledge.

Every part of the Bible is God-breathed. While various writers bring different perspectives, the Bible is inspired by God and reveals His identity, nature, and divine plan for all of humankind.



“All 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.”

2 Timothy 3:16

## SO LET'S LOOK AT HIS WORD...

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."  
Genesis 1:1

All that you see and all that you can sense was created by God. The very first book of the Bible, Genesis, gives us an account of creation. God spoke all things into existence, including humans.

Scripture tells us that God then placed the first humans, Adam and Eve, into a garden called the Garden of Eden--to work (Genesis 2:15). **These humans were special, set apart from the rest of creation** because God breathed his own breath into them and gave them dominion over all living things (Genesis 2:7).

God's intention from the very beginning was for humans to share in His royal position and carry His authority in the world. But He gave us the choice to live according to His wisdom and share in His inheritance or to follow our own wisdom and live according to what we think is best. He gave us free will.

In the Garden of Eden, God placed a **Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil**. He commanded Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree, but rather to trust in His knowledge of good and evil. But, tempted by the serpent (Genesis 3), Adam and Eve took from the tree and ate the fruit, acting in disobedience to God and introducing sin into the world.

They choose to go their own way rather than to walk in God's way.

**PEOPLE  
ARE  
OUR  
HEART**



# WHAT IS SIN?



SIN IS AN IMMORAL ACT CONSIDERED TO BE A TRANSGRESSION AGAINST DIVINE LAW. BIBLICALLY, SIN IS WHEN A PERSON DOES ANYTHING THAT IS OUT OF LINE WITH THE PERFECT CHARACTER AND DIRECTION OF GOD.

## WHO IS THE SERPENT?

The Serpent in Genesis 3 is the tempter. He convinced Eve to act in opposition to God. This character matches that of a being known as Satan, an opposer of God. Throughout scripture we see God's creation. **Jesus and His apostles warn us time and time again to resist Satan** (also known as the devil) as to not fall into the same trap as Eve.

(References: 2 Corinthians 11:3 | 1 John 3:8 | John 8:44)

Sin causes a separation between humans and God. God is holy and perfect in every way. When we act out of line with His nature, we create a divide between us and our Creator. Because God so loved the world, He had a plan to save us from our sin.

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.” - John 3:16

Throughout the entire Bible, we see this salvation plan in motion. Before Jesus ever entered the world, God made Himself known to the people and time and time again revealed His desire to be close to us.

He did this most often through the Israelites, known as His chosen people, because it was through them that God intended to show the rest of the world what it looks like to be close to Him. **Through them, he would send a savior into the world.**

Because of Jesus, God's one and only Son, we now have a way to be rid of our sins and draw close to God. **Jesus gave His life once and for all-taking our place and inviting us to live according to the way of his kingdom here on earth.**

# **JESUS OVER- COMES SIN**



## WHY DID JESUS NEED TO DIE FOR MY SIN?

Romans 6:23 teaches us that *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

**Every one of us have sinned.** The consequence or payment for that sin is death or eternal separation from God. Why? Because God and sin can't coexist--sin goes against His very nature.

Since we have all sinned, we all deserve to be separated from God forever. The wages of death had to be paid. Jesus came to earth to pay that price. He took the punishment we deserve on Himself. He was beaten, bruised, nailed to a cross and killed on our behalf.

In doing this, Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies about the one who would suffer on behalf of humanity.

“But He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.” Isaiah 53:5

**JESUS PAID IT ALL SO THAT WE COULD HAVE IT ALL.**

**JESUS DIED THE DEATH THAT WE DESERVE SO THAT WE COULD RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE.**

## HOW DID JESUS OVERCOME SIN?

Jesus came into the world, faced all the same temptations that we do, yet never sinned. **His innocence made him worthy to be the perfect sacrifice.** If Jesus didn't live a perfect, sinless life, there would be no sacrifice to pay the debt that separated us from God. **Because of Jesus' blood that was shed for us, all our sins, past, present, and future, are forgiven.**

But Jesus did not only die on the cross, He conquered death by coming back to life. After three days in the grave, He resurrected from the dead. **Jesus defied all the power and logic of death, making a way for you to live eternally.**

**BY GRACE  
THROUGH  
FAITH**



## WHY DO I ACCEPT THE GIFT RATHER THAN EARN IT?

The truth is, we are saved because of Jesus's actions, not our own. In fact, **there is nothing you could ever do to earn your salvation.** Even your best days, you still sin. We needed a perfect savior to die on our behalf and grant us salvation as a gift, because we could never earn it on our own.

*“God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.” Ephesians 2:8-9*

No matter how often you attend church, how many days you read your Bible, or how nice you are to people, those things will never get you into Heaven. **Your salvation is secured because of Jesus and Jesus alone.** There is nothing that you could ever do that will make God love you more, and there is nothing that you have ever done that has made God love you any less.

Once you are saved you become a child a God, and when God the Father looks at you, he doesn't see your sin or mistakes. **Because of God's grace, you have been saved, and there is no sin that is too much for God to forgive.** He has already forgiven all sins because of Jesus.

## HOW DID JESUS OVERCOME SIN?

NOW THAT I HAVE RECEIVED SALVATION AND UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS, WHAT COMES NEXT?

# SANCTIFICATION

sanc-ti-fi-ca-tion

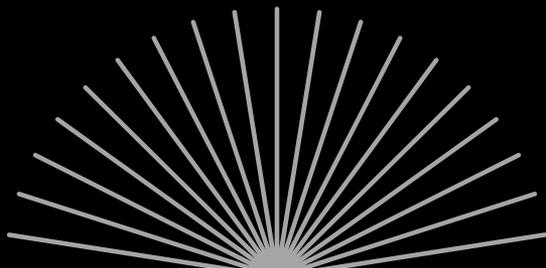
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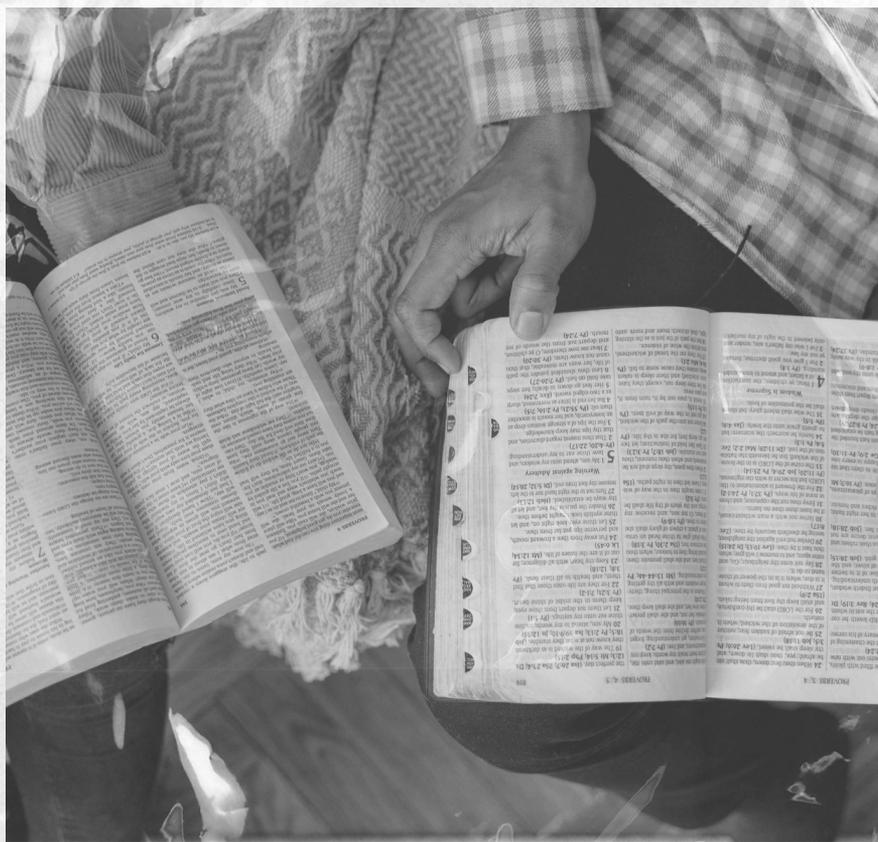
## SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is the ongoing process of submitting to God's Word and Spirit to complete the development of Christ's character in us. **Sanctification is not about perfection, it is about progression.** It is the Holy Spirit continued work in us to become more like Him.

God is the one who does the work of making us more like Christ. We participate in that work by continually turning away from sin and demonstrating our faith in Christ by obeying God's commands.



# DISCIPLINES OF SANCTIFICATION



Read the Bible  
Pray to God

## BIBLE TIPS

- Schedule your Bible reading time.
- Choose a Bible reading plan.
- Find a quiet place to set aside distractions.
- Start with the book of John.

## AN EASY WAY TO BEGIN READING THE BIBLE

- S--Scripture: Write out a verse or passage or scripture that speaks to you.
- O--Observation: What stood out to you about this verse? Were there any instructions? What is the author saying?
- A--Application: How can you apply this verse to your life today? How can you live in light of truth?
- P--Prayer: Respond to this passage in prayer. Ask God to help you apply this scripture to your life.

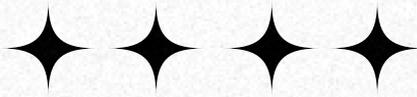
## PRAYER TIPS

- Talk to God daily.
- Be open and honest.
- Find a quiet place.

## AN EASY WAY TO BEGIN PRAYING

- P--Begin your prayer with **praise**. Praise is showing awe for who God is, what He has done, and what He can do.
- R--Next, **repent**. This is recognizing our shortcomings and turning away from them. God isn't surprised by anything you bring Him.
- A--Then, **ask**. God wants us to ask Him for things in our lives. Like any father, he wants His children (us) to come to Him with our requests.
- Y--Finally, **yield**. Prayer is not just asking God for what we want: it is putting ourselves in a position to want what God wants.

# NEXT STEPS



## **ATTEND CHURCH REGULARLY**

This is where you you'll learn more about how the Bible and God apply to your everyday life. Just keep showing up!

## **BE BAPTIZED**

Baptism is your next step of obedience that publicly shows others you have personally trusted Jesus for your salvation. When Christians are baptized they are submerged under water to identify with the death and burial of Jesus and raised out of the water to identify with His resurrection.

## **JOIN A CREW**

At Purpose Church, Crews are small groups of about 15-20 people who meet together to learn about Jesus, grow spiritually, and build relationships. You'll get to experience the ups and downs of life with the support of others. There are Crews for all stages of life, and most meet weekly either at the church or in homes.

## **ATTEND NEXT**

NEXT is the best way for you to connect to the Purpose Church family. You'll learn Purpose Church's history, hear vision from Pastor Dustin and Allie, have the opportunity to become a partner of the church, get to know your unique gifts God has given you, and start making a difference alongside the Purpose Church Serve Team.

## **THANK YOU**

If we can ever serve you in any way, don't hesitate to reach out. We're not like family, We ARE family!



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OURPURPOSE.CHURCH

