## Session 4

# How can I have

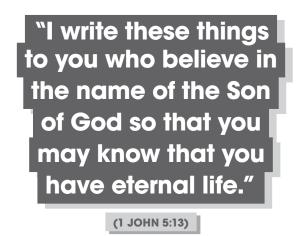
# faith

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" (2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT)

A Christian is a *Christ*-ian: someone who follows and puts their faith in Jesus Christ.

How that happens varies enormously. For some there is a definite moment; for others it is a more gradual process.

- When you receive Christ, you become a child of God. (John 1:12)
- God wants you to be sure of your faith.



Faith is not a blind leap, but a step based on evidence.

### **1. THE WORD OF GOD**

We must not only trust our feelings, which can be changeable and may even be deceptive at times, but instead rely on God's promises.

- "... faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ." (Romans 10:17)
- "I will come in." (Revelation 3:20)
- "I am with you always." (Matthew 28:20)
- "I give them eternal life." (John 10:28)

#### **2. THE WORK OF JESUS**

You come exactly as you are. It's not about what you do or what you can achieve; it's about what has been done for you by Jesus on the cross.

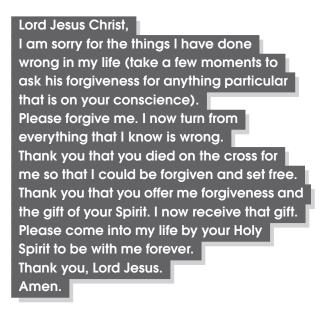
- Free gift of God (Romans 6:23).
- It's free but not cheap: it cost Jesus His life.
- We receive it through repentance (turning away from sin) and faith (trust).

### **3. THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

When someone becomes a Christian, God comes to live inside them by His Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9).

- He transforms us from within.
  - Our characters (Galatians 5:22-23)
  - Our relationships
- He brings a deep personal conviction that we are God's children. – Faith to knowledge (Romans 8:15–16)

Here is a very simple prayer that you can pray to open the door of your heart to Jesus Christ and invite Him to come into your life by His Spirit:



#### SESSION 4 HOW CAN I HAVE FAITH?


## **RECOMMENDED READING**

*The Reason for God* Tim Keller

*Is Faith Irrational?* Nicky Gumbel

One Step Beyond: One Man's Journey From Near Death to New Life Gram Seed

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# pray

# Why and how do I

### **1. WHAT IS CHRISTIAN PRAYER?**

Prayer is the most important activity of our lives.

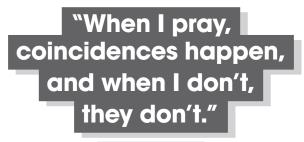
"For through [Jesus] we both have access to the Father by one Spirit." (Ephesians 2:18)

- To the Father
  - "... to your father" (Matthew 6:6)
  - "... in heaven" (v.9)
- Through the Son – "I have called you friends" (John 15:15)
- By the Spirit – "... the Spirit helps us" (Romans 8:26)

### 2. WHY PRAY?

- Develops a relationship with God
- Rewards of prayer (Matthew 6:6)
  - Presence of God
  - Peace (Philippians 4:6-7)
  - Perspective
  - Power
- Results of prayer (Matthew 7:7–11)





WILLIAM TEMPLE,

THE FORMER ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

### 3. DOES GOD ALWAYS ANSWER PRAYER?

- Yes-you receive what you prayed for, sometimes immediately.
- **No**—sometimes an obvious reason why not; other times we may not understand straight away why the answer is no.
- Wait—for the right timing.

### 4. HOW DO WE PRAY?

- Thank you—count your blessings, not your problems.
- **Sorry**—confess your sins (John 13:6–10).
- Please—"Give us today our daily bread." (Matthew 6:11): ask for anything you need.

### **5. WHEN SHOULD WE PRAY?**

#### Anywhere, anytime

- (Ephesians 6:18)
- Alone (Matthew 6:6)
  - Regular pattern
  - Best part of the day (Mark 1:35)

#### • With others

- There's power in praying together
- "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven." (Matthew 18:19)

Three simple tips:

- Keep it real
- Keep it simple
- Keep it going

### **RECOMMENDED READING**

#### God on Mute Pete Greig

What About Other Religions? Nicky Gumbel

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