

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.

**“I write these things  
to you who believe in  
the name of the Son  
of God so that you  
may know that you  
have eternal life.”**

**(1 JOHN 5:13)**

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

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## 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).

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### 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:

Lord Jesus Christ,  
I am sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life (take a few moments to ask his forgiveness for anything particular that is on your conscience).  
Please forgive me. I now turn from everything that I know is wrong.  
Thank you that you died on the cross for me so that I could be forgiven and set free.  
Thank you that you offer me forgiveness and the gift of your Spirit. I now receive that gift.  
Please come into my life by your Holy Spirit to be with me forever.  
Thank you, Lord Jesus.  
Amen.

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing.

**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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Session 5



**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)

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**“When I pray,  
coincidences happen,  
and when I don’t,  
they don’t.”**

**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.

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## 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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