



# Finding True Salvation

By Frank Codispoti | February 3, 2023

## The Road for All

Yes, the often-repeated phrase - Jesus Saves – is true. I want to introduce you to the real Jesus. You can become born again in Christ Jesus and filled with the Holy Spirit from the privacy of your home, car, bathroom, or closet. God knows your heart. If you're ready to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, there is no time to lose. Do it now because your life can end unexpectedly.

The Salvation Prayer is recited from the heart by anyone who wants to become a born-again child of God. There are four steps in the prayer process: A) repent of your sins, B) ask God for forgiveness of your sins, C) state that you believe in the life, death, and saving resurrection of Jesus Christ, and D) Ask Jesus to be your Lord, and to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God.

Here is the scriptural references for praying the sinner's prayer:

### Admit you are a sinner:

Throughout our lives we have all made mistakes.

- *"There is none righteous, no, not one;"* (Romans 3:10)
- *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"* (Romans 3:23)
- *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* (Romans 5:8)
- *"For the wages of sin is death, but the <sup>[a]</sup>gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 6:23)

Ask God's forgiveness and repent of your sins:

- *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"* Romans 10:13
- *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,"* (Acts 3:19)

### Believe in Jesus:

Put your trust in Him as your only hope of salvation:

- *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)*
- *“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)*

Become a child of God by receiving Christ:

- *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the <sup>[a]</sup>right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12)*
- *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” (Revelation 3:20)*

Confess Jesus is your Lord:

- *“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Romans 10:9-10)*

### A Simple Prayer from the Heart

Dear Father,

I now believe that Jesus Christ is Your only begotten Son, that He came down to our earth in the flesh born of a virgin, and died on the cross to take away all my sins and the sins of this world. I believe in my heart that Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day to give all of us eternal life.

Lord Jesus,

I confess to You all the wrong and sinful things that I have ever done in my life. I ask that You please forgive me and wash away all my sins by the blood that You have personally shed for me on the cross. I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I ask that You come into my life, fill me with the Holy Spirit and live with me for all of eternity – make me into the person that you created me to be.

In Jesus name! Amen!

Congratulations! The act of repentance and faith in Christ gives the lost person new birth (born-again), and entrance into the Kingdom of God. This is a huge happening! Luke 15:10 tells us, *“...There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repents.”* Why is this a cause for rejoicing? Because you have become a child of God, avoided eternal separation from God in hell, and will forever reside with Him in heaven immediately ([2 Corinthians 5:8](#)) after you leave this earth.

Making a commitment to Jesus and becoming a child of God is the first step in a life-long journey of getting to know God personally, and learning about thousands of promises he made in the Bible to prosper, support, love and encourage you, His child. In the following section we will review your next steps.

## What Now?

### Step 1 - Find a Biblically Sound Christian Church

You will first need to find a reputable Christian church that practices doctrinal Christianity. First, we must differentiate between denominations within the body of Christ and non-Christian cults and other religions. Mormons, and as we have demonstrated, and Jehovah's Witnesses are examples of cults (groups claiming to be Christian but denying one or more of the essentials of the Christian faith). Islam and Buddhism are entirely separate religions.

The rise of denominations in the Christian faith can be traced back to Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation to reform the Catholic church during the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Out of this, four major divisions of Protestantism would emerge: Lutheran, Reformed, Anabaptist, and Anglican. These four were the root that other denominations grew from over the centuries.

Denominationalism is not found anywhere in scripture. The Bible says that we are the body of Christ with a mandate for unification and connectivity. The doctrines taught by the church you are considering must adhere to commonly accepted Judeo-Christian principles taught in the Bible. We have one God, and one Bible.

Review the Statement of Faith the church has written. It declares the church's position on matters that pertain to the essentials of historical Christianity. Every church you research prior to attending should have these same basic statements of what they stand for:

1. They believe that the Bible is inspired by God in its entirety, and is without error in the original manuscripts, and is a complete and final written revelation from God. (2 Timothy 3:15-17, 2 Peter 1:21)
2. They believe that there is only one God, who is eternal and immutable, and manifests Himself in three distinct Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:1, Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:19, John 10:30)
3. They believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah (John 1:36-42), born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:34-35), totally without sin (Hebrews 4:15, Hebrews 7:26), God in human flesh (John 1:1 & 14, John 20:28) the One Who died on the cross for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3, Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 2:9), was buried (John 19:40-42), rose again from the dead on the third day (John 2:19), and ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven, where He now intercedes for us who believe in Him. (Mark 16:19, Acts 7:56, 1 Timothy 2:5)
4. They believe that Jesus Christ is going to return in the clouds for His church before the tribulation that is coming upon the whole earth (1 Thessalonians 4:16), and that He will return with His saints and all His holy angels to the earth at the end of the tribulation, and set up His kingdom on earth, ruling and reigning forever and ever. (Matthew 24:30, Revelation 19:13)

5. They believe that all humanity is lost and born with a sinful nature, and can only be saved by a personal faith in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and not by any human merit or performance. (John 3:16-19, John 5:24, Romans 3:10, Romans 3:23, Romans 5:8-9, Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 3:5)
6. They believe in a real/literal devil, called Satan, who, along with all his fallen angels that became demons, and evil spirits, are destined to spend eternity in hell, and now seek to deceive the world, defeat the believers, and destroy the work of God, but can be resisted by believers, who are protected by God, the Holy Spirit, and the intercession of Jesus Christ our Lord. (Genesis 3:1, Job 1:6-12, Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 10:18-19, Luke 22:31-32, 1 John 4:4, Revelation 20:10)
7. They believe that heaven is a real place where the saved will dwell forever, and that hell is a literal place of torment where unbelievers (those who have not accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior) will suffer forever. (John 14:1-3, Revelation 20:11-15, Revelation 21:8, Revelation 22:5)
8. They believe that genuine believers are born again by the Holy Spirit of God, and are indwelt, baptized into the body of Christ, the true church, and sealed by the Holy Spirit, and thus, unable to be separated from the love of Jesus Christ. (John 3:1-6, Acts 1:4-5, Romans 8:35-39, Ephesians 1:13-14)
9. They believe that all believers need to be filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit to live a godly life and to be bold in our witness for the Lord. (Romans 8:13-14, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Ephesians 4:30, Ephesians 5:18)
10. They believe in the spiritual unity of all genuine believers in the Lord Jesus Christ which is manifested by the spiritual gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit's presence through His love. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 4:8-12)
11. They believe that the nation of Israel has a special place in God's plan, and that all the promises of God to Israel will be fulfilled both now and in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ in His millennium. (Genesis 12:3, Psalm 122:1)
12. They believe the human race was created as male and female by a direct act of God to fully reveal His image. (Genesis 1:26-28)
13. They believe marriage is a sacred covenantal union between a man and a woman that limits sexual relations to monogamous, heterosexual marriage. (Genesis 2:24)
14. They believe that the solemnizing of a marriage is a sacred and profound event that shall be entered into only where the proposed covenantal union is complying with the Word of God. (Genesis 4:1)
15. They believe that the solemnizing of a marriage between men and women of the same sex is contrary to the Word of God and is a sin before God. (Romans 1:21-27)

16. They believe in the sanctity of human life in all stages from conception to natural death. The church, based upon clear biblical teaching and by obedience to the Holy Scriptures, must believe that life is to be preserved without exception. (Psalm 82:3-4, Genesis 1:27, Psalm 127, 3, Exodus 20-13, Exodus 20:13, Micah 6:7, John 10:10)
17. They believe in the standard of holy living set forth in Holy Scripture and agree that as believers in the Lord we must adhere to right living preserving our witness before the unsaved world. We agree that we are living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God and that without the Holy Spirit's indwelling and recurring filling for Christian power, we cannot fully display Christ. (Romans 12:1, 1 Peter 2:5)

Don't be afraid to ask questions if you don't see some of these statements listed on their website. It's critical that you find a great church that has solid, Biblically based teaching so that you can grow in your knowledge of the Lord and be properly taught. When you attend, pray. You should feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in their worship and within their congregation. Let them know you are a new believer attending for the first time.

## Step 2 - Water Baptism

Once you have found a church, verified their statement of faith meets doctrinal Christian standards, and feel comfortable with the people and the leadership, it is time to get water baptized. It is important to do this as quickly as you can after your profession of faith. Christian baptism is one of two ordinances that Jesus instituted for the church. Just before His ascension, Jesus said, *"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age"* (Matthew 28:19–20).

Baptism is the physical representation of the death of your old self when you are dunked under the water, and when you emerge from under the water, this represents your new born again life that has been cleansed from sin. Many churches have water baptisms on campus after their weekly service, or schedule them monthly. Some even hold baptisms in pools, or in the ocean. Schedule your baptism as quickly as possible.

## Step 3 - Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Just before Jesus' death, He told His disciples that He would not leave them as orphans but send a helper – The Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the third person or representation of God that we are filled with at the point of our salvation, and then anointed by Him through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

When you accepted Jesus as Lord the Spirit of God placed you into union with Christ and union with other believers in the body of Christ at the moment of salvation. ([Mark 1:8](#)) After you have been water baptized, there is a second baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a separate experience. ([Acts 8:14-21, 19:5-6](#)) The baptism in the Holy Spirit is the doorway to experiencing God in your life and must be received by faith. Receiving the Holy Spirit is so important to the Lord that He commanded the apostles who had

already accepted Him as Lord not to go anywhere until they have received the Spirit ([Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4](#)).

Jesus revealed the purpose of the baptism in Acts chapter 1:5 & 8:

- *“For John truly baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now... YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

The purpose of the Holy Spirit coming upon the believer is to receive power for service. When you are filled with the Spirit, you literally receive the power, or ability, of God to carry out the commission to be His witness.

The Holy Spirit is one of three personifications of God – Father, Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit. The power of the Holy Spirit gives us the willpower and strength to live a Christian life, but also gives us gifts and abilities according to His will and selection.

In 1 Corinthians 12:4-10 it says:

- *“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.”*

In Romans 8:26-27 it says:

- *“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”*

The second main reason that you will want this gift is so that you can have God’s supernatural power flowing through you so you can fully accomplish the plan God’s perfect will gave you to execute in this life. This is where you really enter what is called your anointing.

Find the elders in your church and ask them to pray over you for the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

#### **Step 4 – Follow the Basics of a Christian Life**

Your relationship with the Lord will grow substantially over time. The depth of which will totally depend on your level of commitment to building your personal relationship with God. A relationship with God is just like others in life. You must be engaged daily for it to grow.

Here are some tips to grow in your relationship with God:



1. **Fully Surrender:** This means that after you pray the salvation prayer, you are committed to completely surrendering your life to God. Jesus must become your Lord over your life and not just your Savior. When you prayed the prayer of salvation, you entered a blood covenant relationship with God by accepting the shed blood sacrifice of Jesus that cleanses you of all unrighteousness and comes with several promises God made to us in scripture. Pray often to seek His will. ([Matthew 6:33](#))
2. **Become Spirit-Filled:** You received the Holy Spirit when you were saved. However, after you have your water baptism, you need to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. This step puts your relationship with God into overdrive. You cannot live a Christian life without the power of the Holy Spirit guiding and empowering you. One of the many things the Holy Spirit will do for you is guide you in all truth and teach you all things. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 tells us *“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by <sup>the</sup> the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”* Pray about receiving and applying your gifts.
3. **Establish Faith and Trust in God:** Proverbs 3:5-6 says to *“trust in the Lord with all our heart and lean not on our own understanding. In all our ways we acknowledge Him, and He will direct our paths.”* Faith is the currency of heaven. Every miracle Jesus performed required faith from the recipient in Him. God loves you and has a plan for your life. He has written down more than 2,000 promises in the Bible that belong to every believer who have a covenant relationship with God through Jesus Christ. You do your part, and God will do His. Matthew 6:33 says: *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”* These “things” come to you depending on your readiness to receive them. Be patient. Trust God and leave all the consequences to Him.
4. **Walk in all of God’s Ways:** The best way to begin this journey is to read God’s word every day and learn His rules. You should get started with a basic daily Bible reading plan. There are several available through the free You Version Bible app. The icon is a reddish square with the words “Holy Bible” written on the front. It is available in IOS and Droid formats. Start off with a plan that takes you through the Bible in a year. The app will organize your daily reading plan. Once you register, you can invite other people you know to join you in the plan you selected. It is important to know the character and person of God. Get into a Bible study group at your church and participate in discipleship programs to build your understanding of how to live a life that glorifies Him.
5. **Develop a Good Personal Relationship with the Lord:** Talk to God about everything. Jesus said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Learn to recognize His presence in your daily life. Talk to Him about your concerns, questions, fears, problems, or even what road to take to the market. That last statement may sound crazy, but I can’t tell you how many times I avoided an accident, or hours of traffic, by listening to His small quiet voice, or following the idea that just so happened to pop into my brain after I prayed.

6. **Develop a Good, Strong, Prayer Life with the Lord:** James 5:16 says that *“The effective, [b]fervent prayer of a righteous man [or woman] avails much.”* A critical part to prayer is knowing God’s promises through Bible study, and memorizing poignant scriptures that can be applied to everyday life. Always be having a discussion with the Lord. He wants to hear about your hopes, dreams, problems, and requests for interceding in your life.
7. **Memorize Scripture:** Hiding God’s word is critical to your growth as a Christian and in your prayer life. These memorized scriptures become offensive and defensive weapons in prayer and in protecting your mind from destructive or demoralizing thoughts. *“Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.”* (Psalm 119:11); *“Keep your heart with all diligence For out of it spring the issues of life”* (Proverbs 4:23); *“My son [daughter] do not forget my law But let your heart keep my commands.”* (Proverbs 3:1). Each verse instructs us to learn what not to do; feed your heart with God’s word so it flows with His love and wisdom; and by continual repetitious study, be reminded of His commands.
8. **Enter a True Sanctification Process with the Lord:** *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is [she is] a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”* (2 Corinthians 5:17) None of us is perfect. Your transformation in some areas will be instant, while others will require gradual refinement. Jesus was the only perfect person to walk the earth, that’s why He needed to die to save us. All of us have the tendency to sin. We were born with a sin nature that can only be controlled through the power of the Holy Spirit, the depth and commitment in your personal relationship with God, and your knowledge of scripture. As your relationship with the Lord deepens, He will cause you to recall areas or issues in your life you need to adjust or surgically remove. Through this process you may find toxic relationships or unhealthy habits you will need to step away from.
9. **Seek after the Knowledge of God:** May your seeking the knowledge of God become a daily habit. *“Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.”* (Proverbs 2:5) *“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”* (Luke 11:9) Seeking God’s knowledge will become a lifelong journey filled with discovery. Pray as you read and ask Him, “what lesson should I learn from this verse or passage of scripture?” You will be amazed at the insight God will reveal to you. These insights, and the Holy Spirit discernment that follows, will give you an advantage in life.
10. **Establish Good Personal Relationships with Other Christians:** Use the discernment the Holy Spirit gives you when establishing relationships with other Christians. I regret to say that there are far too many people who label themselves Christian, yet have no personal relationship with God, or worst yet, feel that since they are American or member of a particular church, makes them a Christian. *“Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”* Matthew 7:20 *“A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.”* Matthew 7:18 Fruit means what their life and lifestyle produces. Choose people whose life consistently demonstrates a Godly and moral character. Surround yourself with Godly people who you can learn from.



**11. Join a Good Spirit-Filled Church:** This is extremely important. Follow the church selection steps discussed early and dig in. Find a ministry you enjoy and volunteer. Look for opportunities to register for discipleship classes that can help you grow in your knowledge of God's word. Understand why you believe what you believe and be able to defend your position. *"But sanctify [set apart as holy] the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope [faith] that is in you, with meekness [power under control] and fear [reverence and respect];"* (1 Peter 3:15)

## Resources

Here are some of my favorite websites for solid Biblical teaching and support. While you are looking for a local church, here are some websites where you can watch livestream worship services:

### Churches

1. <https://www.intouch.org/>
2. <https://gatewaypeople.com/>
3. <https://calvarycch.org/>
4. <https://calvaryftl.org/>
5. <https://www.gototherock.com>

### Education & Study Tools

Here are some free Bible study tools, support articles and commentary resources you can use to develop your Christian education:

1. <https://www.bfamtc.com> Be Fruitful And Multiply Training Center
2. <http://www.oslonline.com/> Operation Solid Lives
3. <https://www.focusonthefamily.com/> Focus on The Family
4. <https://www.biblegateway.com/> Bible Gateway
5. <https://www.blueletterbible.org/> Blue Letter Bible

## About Quest

*"Duty is ours. Results are God's."* John Quincy Adams

Finding Truth...

The purpose for any Quest is to find the truth. The world seems to have headed in a direction that many of us cannot recognize. Truth has become relative or randomly labeled as disinformation. We are embroiled in an information age. Be encouraged to think strategically and do your own homework. America, our families, and culture are worth fighting for.

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