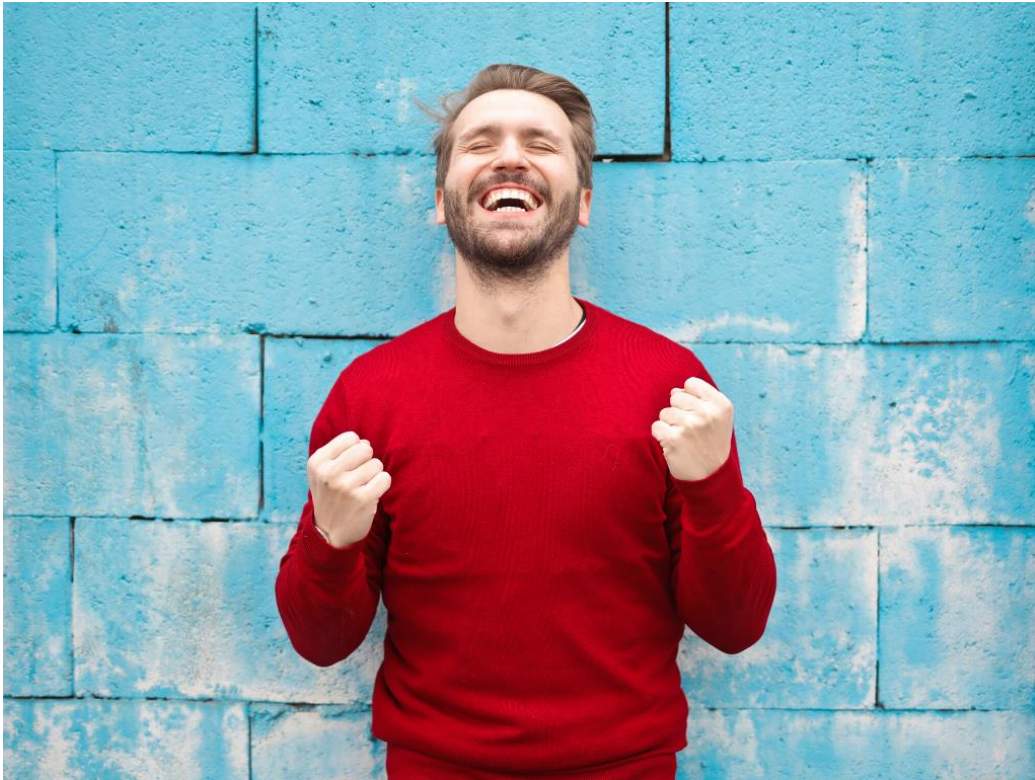


# "I said YES to Jesus"



Hello and welcome!

We are SO excited for your new decision to walk with Jesus.

The angels are having a party over you!

Perhaps you were hesitant as you prayed to accept Jesus into your heart. Or maybe you had an incredible experience, sensing a sweet Presence. God is infinitely creative and He loved you so much that He had a tailor-made invitation for you! And He has a tailor-made, awesome plan for you, the REAL reason you walk on this planet: a unique, just-for-you journey to take with Him!

# So, now what?

Now begins the most exciting part of your life. You just went from black-and-white to full color TV in ultra 3D. Now begins a life full, abundant, and BLESSED!

Welcome to the family of God!

## You Are Now...

- **A New Creation:** Your spirit has been re-born in Christ! It may not feel different, however, because you still live in a body, and you still have your soul: your mind, will, and emotions. As you walk in your new relationship with Jesus, your spirit will grow stronger, and this, if properly maintained, will also affect your soul and body in healthy ways!

*Bible reading... 2 Corinthians 5:17 and 1 Thessalonians 5:23*

- **A Child of God:** This could sound a bit intimidating, but it's not! Whether you had/have a great relationship with your earthly parents, or a terrible one, picture God as the Perfect Father. He is, you know!

*Bible reading... Romans 8:15 and Galatians 4:6*

- **One with Jesus:** This is a lifetime's worth of study - rather, an eternity! But here are a few truths to get started with:

\* I am Saved

\* I am Forgiven

\* I am Loved

\* I am Chosen

\* I am Righteous

\* I am Royalty

\* I am Never Alone

\* I am a Joint Heir with Jesus

\* I have a "mustard seed" of Faith

\* I am Alive

- **Part of the “Body of Christ”:** So, everyone who has done what you just did—accepted Jesus as Savior—is a part of the “Body”. It’s not a physical one, but a spiritual one. We work together like the parts of the body work together: toes, hand, bones, muscles... you get the idea. Why is this important? We all have Jesus as our Head, and because we all have a job to do; a part to play, in symphony with one another. We need each other!

*Bible reading... 1 Corinthians 12:12-27*

## Action Steps:

- Spend Some Time Reading the Bible Every Day

Really, it all begins here...

*John 1:1 says that “In the beginning was the Word, and The Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*

So, the Bible is a whole lot more than just an old, strange book! It is truly God speaking to you!

*In 2 Timothy 3:16, it says, that “all Scripture (the Bible) is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness”.*

In other words, as you choose to dedicate the valuable resource of *time* to the Word of God, He begins to change you—from the inside out—from sickness, depression, anger, vices, bad habits, rudeness, and a host of other things that aren’t good for us—to being able to be full of love, joy, mercy, faithfulness, patience... so that we look (in the invisible, spirit-man part) more and more like Jesus!

- When you open your bible and see something like this: **John 3:16**, it’s referring to the **BOOK** then **CHAPTER** and **VERSE**. The bible is broken down into these **THREE** components. They help you to navigate the large book of the Bible quickly!

## • A Few Tips:

- If you were to meet with a friend, you'd put it on your **calendar** and make a point of not doing other things, right? Well, put "read my Bible" into your calendar! Don't feel bad if you miss or skip—Just get right back into it! If you make it a priority, the desire for it will grow, then it will be hard to go without time with the Word of God!
- Some great books in the bible to start your studies with include:  
*John, Psalm, Proverbs, Luke, Acts, Romans, and/or 1 John.*
- Pick a **translation** that you like...  
King James (KJV) and New King James (NKJV) have Elizabethan language, but are important translations.  
New International Version Classic (NIVC), New American Standard Bible (NASB), and New Living Translation (NLT) are popular, middle-of-the-road translations.  
The Message (MSG) is probably the easiest to understand, although some liberties are taken with how directly it is translated.  
Finally, the Amplified Bible Classic (AMPC) is awesome for expanding explanations of what you're reading.  
There are many, many more! Find one that works for you, but each has its own contribution to helping you to understand!
- There are many wonderful "**Devotionals**" available. These usually have small chunks of thoughts correlating to bible verses. Here are a few:
  - Our Daily Bread (popular, quick, one-page read)
  - Jesus Calling (series, many different types)
  - Sparkling Gems (if you're intellectual, more "meaty", with lots of Greek definitions)
  - The Case For Christ: Daily Moment of Truth
  - Limitless Love...there are many, many other choices in the bookstores, or online at Christian stores such as [christianbook.com](http://christianbook.com)

- Don't be afraid to **mark up your Bible!** Underline things that jump out or impact you in some way. Highlight, draw arrows... it's your personal copy of what God is saying to you!
- Some of the Bible can be hard to understand. Always **pray** about anything you find odd, confusing, or upsetting! There's a good reason for everything in it, even if we don't know all the answers. Our God is the one true God... He's not simplistic! However, He loves to have His children ask Him questions, and the Word was written for our benefit. One thing you can do: Have a mental "Questions Box". Let the Lord know that you feel or think a way about something in the Word, then put that item in the "Questions Box" of your mind. Set it aside, and trust to His guidance to reveal the truth of it to you. Ask someone who is knowledgeable in the bible.

*Luke 11:9 "Seek and you will find. Knock and it will be opened to you"  
see also Deuteronomy 4:29.*

- But, always know that He is good and He is love.  
Everything else should be filtered that way.

## • Get To know Him

Who is God? Hopefully, in saying "YES" to Jesus, you caught a glimpse of God's true character. Too many times, He is portrayed as an apathetic Clockwinder, or a stern and vicious Judge, ready to slap humans down at the first excuse. As you continue your new life as a Christian, you'll find out more and more of His true personality, His character, and His great desires and plan for giving you a good life! So don't be afraid to get to know Him. You won't be disappointed!

- **Fellowship - Go to Church, Small Groups, and Make Friends:**

*Hebrews 10:24, 25 says, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together..."*

We've already talked a bit about the Body. Often when you spend some time with fellow Christians, you are able to encourage and build one another up in love, peace, joy, and so forth. He didn't make us to be hermits or islands, but to be together. Sure, people are still people, and you'll have to forgive a whole lot. But it's worth it! The true togetherness of being with a body of believers is unlike anything else, and worth the trouble it takes!

- **Learn to Walk in Love**

True, godly love ("agape" in the Greek) isn't like what we know of in modern culture. It's a sacrificial, best-for-you-and-not-for-me kind of love, and it's the same love Jesus loved you with when He died on the cross to wipe out your sins and deliver you from hell. Now, with Him inside you all the time, you have access to this kind of love! Read *1 Corinthians 13:1-8* to find a great description of this.

- **Pray**

Prayer doesn't have to be filled with "thee's" and "thou's". It absolutely should be from the heart. Talk to God as a friend. He has called you His friend. You can talk to God anytime, anywhere, about anything: He cares about the biggest concerns in your life, and the smallest ones! As you grow in prayer, you'll begin to recognize His voice (usually sounds like your own thoughts, but you know it didn't come from you). You'll learn to align scriptures in the bible with those things you hear from Him. After a while, you'll know His voice like you know your best friend's!

## Here is a **prayer** to help you get started:

*Dear Heavenly Father,*

*I am so glad that I am now your child! Please help me to grow spiritually strong and teach me to walk in your ways. I choose to put your Will over my own, and I choose to think, say, and do things in a way that would please You. Jesus, help me to know you and your love for me better every day. Help me to love others with your kind of love. I'm excited for the adventure we are about to go on!*

*In Jesus' name I pray,*

*Amen!*

Dear FRIEND in CHRIST... these are just guidelines and suggestions! You'll grow in confidence in your new life as you go!

Please contact us at HOPE Foursquare Church if you need anything.

(425) 397-6465 // [frontdesk@hopefoursquare.com](mailto:frontdesk@hopefoursquare.com) // [hopefoursquare.com](http://hopefoursquare.com)

Know that you are loved, you are prayed for, you are being cheered on!