

Finding Personal Faith

We all want to enjoy our lives. I don't know anyone whose goal in life is to be miserable!
We often know we need to make a change but find it hard to make that change on our own.
Sometimes we need a *nudge* to help us get there.

Every day we are bombarded with messages about how to have a great life. Do this, try that, buy this product, experience that event, but the 'great life' never seems to get any closer. All that happens is that we get more and more cynical about the things that are supposed to help us obtain a better life.

Christian faith believes that the most fulfilling and satisfying way to live is to follow the teachings of Jesus. Many people find this hard to accept because they think that being a Christian means you have to stop doing all the things you enjoy and instead walk around being boring and dull.

When Jesus said He would give us an abundant life, this may not be in the way you think. Jesus wants us to experience a great life, not just through moments of great excitement but also how we deal with all of life – now and in the future.

So what's this life all about?

There are three basics:

Your future is secure. This doesn't mean personal security so that nothing will ever go wrong, but the security of knowing that God loves you and cares for you. It means you don't need to be afraid of being alone or of what's going to happen at the end of your life. God promises us peace with Himself, now and in the future.

You will experience true joy. The routines and demands of life can strip us of joy. In the end you ask – "What's the point?" Jesus said that life is firstly about following Him and then about helping others.

Your life will have purpose. As we get older, it's so easy to look back after years of work and ask, "Is this it? Surely there's more to life!" Jesus tells us that when we live our lives in line with what He said, we will be able to look back and see that our life has meaning and purpose.

How can I experience 'an abundant life?'



These simple, but life-changing steps will *nudge* you towards a life of faith.

Note – There are Bible verses in the following section you may want to read. Either look them up at BibleGateway.com or find a Bible and use the index to look up these verses.)

Accept – Before we can experience the abundant life that Jesus promises us, we have to accept who Jesus is (Romans 10:9). It is clear when you read the story of Jesus' life and read His words that He is not just another spiritual option. Jesus made it clear that He was God and His sacrifice for us on the cross would allow us to know God personally (Mark 2:9-11, Matthew 16:15-17). He also said His death was no accident, but was planned from the beginning of time. Jesus' resurrection was the ultimate demonstration that we can accept His words as authentic and trustworthy (Matthew 17:22-23).

Ask – If Jesus’ death was planned, why did it have to happen? The Bible tells us we have all broken God’s standards and we need His forgiveness (Romans 3:23). Through His death, Jesus took the punishment we deserve, but we have to accept this payment by accepting Jesus (Romans 3:24-25). We need to ask God’s forgiveness for disappointing Him and then ask Him to help us make a new start (1 John 1:9).

Change – If we want to start fresh with Jesus we can’t continue to live the way we have (Ephesians 3:20-24). Jesus gave all those who followed Him some great advice on how to make the most out of life. These words of Jesus, as well as much more, are found in the Bible. As we’ve said, many people assume that living God’s way is dull and boring, but this isn’t the case. What the Bible gives us is God’s framework for our behavior (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

What now?

If you are ready to make a personal response to Jesus, to accept His offer of new life now and into eternity, why not use the following prayer as an expression of your decision to follow Jesus:

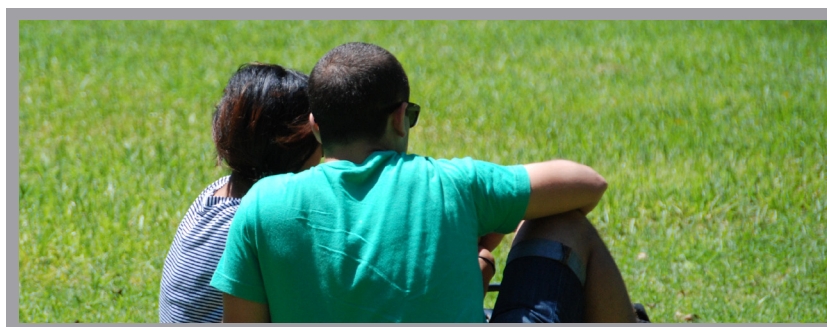
“Lord Jesus I want to make a new start in my life today.
I am sorry for ignoring you and for my behaviour.
Thank you for Jesus’ life, death and resurrection which allows me
to have a relationship with God.
Lord Jesus come into my life through your Holy Spirit and give me a fresh start.
Thank you that you have heard and answered this prayer. Amen”

Let us know

We would love to send you some material (for free) to help *nudge* you forward in your new life following Jesus. Just fill in the contact form on the website and tell us why you have decided to follow Jesus. We will send out some material to help you. We will also sign you up to receive the Weekly and Daily Nudge spots via email each week day.

We would love to hear how God has *nudged* you today.

Karl.



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