

I'M SAVED, NOW WHAT?

NAVIGATING YOUR NEXT STEPS IN SALVATION



*Welcome to the
Family!*

Congratulations on making the most important and best decision of your life – to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior!!! Welcome to the family!!! Now that you are part of the Kingdom of God, this guide will help you navigate your next steps on your Salvation journey.

Before we go any further, you should know that all of Heaven is rejoicing that you have now become part of the Kingdom of God....literally. **(Read Lk. 15:7-10)** You should also know that the kingdom of darkness is equally angry that you have made this decision. This is not to frighten or worry you, but to make you aware upfront that you have now stepped into a realm of spiritual warfare. There will be many attempts by the enemy to discourage you from pursuing and living for God along the way. Do not let it move your faith position in Jesus Christ. God's got you as long as you will allow Him to. If you stay with God through Christ Jesus by way of Holy Spirit, the enemy cannot touch you because you belong to God. Know and be assured of that. God will ALWAYS be there to love on, protect, rescue, guide, favor, correct, and grace you through your Salvation journey. He will never leave nor forsake you....EVER. **(Deut. 31:6)**

Now that we have gotten that out of the way, let's delve into these next steps which, from here, will be critical to your spiritual growth and development.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

INVEST IN GOOD BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES AND TOOLS

- **Bible** (To start, find a version easiest for you to understand. We do encourage getting a *King James Version* for your library. It is an essential as you grow in your walk with Christ!)
- **Bible Dictionary** (There are several good ones out there, but Webster's 1828 is one of our all-time favorites!)
- A couple of good **daily devotional books/apps** (like the M.L.A.M. App)
- Plenty of **pens and highlighters**
- **Journal(s)**
- **Post-It Notes**
- **Flashcards**

*"Prepare your outside work,
Make it fit for yourself in the field;
And afterward build your house."*

Prov. 24:27 (NKJV)

STEP ONE:

Develop the Habit of Worship, Prayer, and Reading/Studying the Bible DAILY.

Critical to your Salvation success is being intentional about developing the right spiritual habits of worship, prayer, and reading/studying the Bible daily. Even if you do not know what to do; start where you are, use what you have, and do what you can do. What is most important to your Salvation is your personal relationship with God through Christ by way of Holy Spirit. It is what will anchor you throughout every season. It is not about being perfect, but being truthful about where you are, asking God to help you get to where He wills for you to be, and making the commitment to consistently and persistently do your part to get there. This gives God something to work with, and He loves working with little and making it much. It is His way. Take a moment and read about it here: **(1 Ki. 17:8-16 and Jn. 6:1-14)**

Begin with a 30-Day Challenge. Hold yourself accountable to spending time with God for 15-30 minutes daily, preferably at the start of your day. Then another and another until it becomes your lifestyle. It is impossible to walk with Christ successfully without having developed the daily habit of worship, prayer and reading/studying the Bible. It is your spiritual armor against the works of darkness and stabilizes you on your path to growth in Christ. **(Eph. 6:12-18)**

Start with worship. Start your day by setting aside 5-10 minutes of worshipping God. Play and sing along with the worship music, and begin verbally exalting Him for who He is, what He means to you, and what He's done for you (i.e., "God, you are King of Kings and Lord of Lords", "You are a Holy and Righteous God", "No one compares to you God", etc.). To worship means to "to fawn or crouch to, that is (literally or figuratively) prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore)". Taking this a step further for your understanding. Worship is prostrating your heart, first, and as the Spirit of God leads you to, your body, second, before your Heavenly Father in adoration and submission to His sovereignty. It is acknowledging that He is God, and He alone is worthy to be worshipped for all that He is and does for us. **John 4:23-24** tells us exactly how we should worship God, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him."

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” (KJV) Starting with worship gets your mind off you and your life onto God solely. This sets the stage for you to transition to prayer with the right heart posture.

Then pray. Now that you have gotten you out of the way, it is now time to talk to God. Prayer is simply having a conversation with God. When you are first starting out, it may be a little weird conversing with someone you cannot see nor are you sure they even hear you. I can assure you that He does. 😊 At this point, do not focus on whether you are doing it right, but rather that you are doing it. Right now, what matters most to God is that you believe He hears you, are truthful with Him, and willing to allow Him to make His abode with you. **(Heb. 11:6; Lk. 18:1)**

If you do not know where to start when talking to God, here are two model prayer formats that are commonly used:

Format 1: The Lord’s Prayer

“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.” **(Matt. 6:9-13)** (KJV)

In this passage of Scripture, Jesus was teaching His disciples how to pray. He made it a point to callout that they did not need to concern themselves with praying with much eloquent speech, but rather with simplicity and sincerity. He went on to acknowledge God’s sovereignty and declare His will to be done in the earth. He praised Him for His provision and Salvation – two of the most important elements of a human beings’ life. Thereafter, the Father was asked to forgive us for any sins we have committed against Him (both known and unknown), while honoring His command to forgive others that have wronged us. The Father was then asked not to lead us into temptation, but to deliver us from the evil which so easily besets us. Last, as a reiteration of the first declaration made, He acknowledged His existential Sovereignty and Glory.

When you do not know what to pray, you cannot go wrong with praying this

prayer, as it covers all the critical elements of our lives.

Format 2: ACTS

- **A - Adoration** (Worship God for who He is and who He has been to you in life.)
- **C - Confess** (Ask God to forgive you for your sins (both known and unknown). *Note:* Call out those sins you are aware of that you have committed. Ask God to extend an abundance of His mercy, grace, and divine help/power not to do them again. Commit to repentance in word and action going forward, with the Holy Spirit's help.)
- **T - Thanksgiving** (Thank God for all that He has done, is doing, and will do in your life. *Note:* Be specific.)
- **S - Supplication** (Make your specific requests known before God for yourself and others. Always pray that His perfect will be done in every situation.)

Remember, these prayers are just a guide to get you started. The goal is to develop your own unique way of talking with your Heavenly Father which will come after you practice and grow in your relationship with Him.

After that, read and study the Bible...

Pray and ask God to reveal His mind and heart to you through the Scriptures. Before you start reading, proclaim **Ephesians 1:17-23** over yourself. Doing so invites the Holy Spirit to bestow upon you wisdom and revelation from God's Word. Now that your mind, heart, and spirit are primed, begin with one of your daily devotionals. Read each of the Scriptures provided and referenced from the actual Bible, whether their written out in the daily devotional or not. This will get you in the habit of reading your actual Bible and not relying upon others to tell you what it says. Additionally, read one chapter of Proverbs per day.

As you read the Bible, note the Scriptures that capture your attention (i.e., you are inwardly compelled to read, re-read, and spend more time with them than others), and write out what comes to your mind as you meditate on them. For example, if you read a Scripture that convicts you about how you currently think and/or live, write it down. Additionally, note any changes you are compelled to make in your life as a result of the conviction. Pray and ask Holy Spirit to empower you within to make the adjustments.

STEP TWO:

You Need a Spiritual Covering (Church Home)

At the core of your spiritual growth and development is being in the right faith environment. Pray and ask God to lead you to a Spirit-led, Bible-based teaching church. Perform some online research and begin visiting some churches in your area. While doing so, and deciding on which one is best for you, ask yourself these questions:

- Is it Gospel-centered and do they teach the pure, unadulterated Word of God?
- Does their Statement of Faith match the proclamations of faith from the pulpit?
- What is their vision and mission?
- What are their core values, and do they align to my existing and/or desired values?
- Does it offer opportunities for me (any my family) to grow spiritually, serve, and fellowship?
- Are they being His Church within the community they reside?
- Are the leaders committed to being accessible and accountable to their flock?
- Is it a good cultural fit?
- Am I loved and accepted here?
- Do I have peace when I am here?
- Is there something tugging at me on the inside telling me this is right place for me?

You have probably heard it said time and time again. You do not need to go to church to be saved. This is true, but you do need to go to church to stay saved. If it were not so, God would not have instructed us in His Word in **Hebrews 10:25**, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Contrary to what many have said, the Body of Christ needs each other. God designed it that way. We need each other for love, strength, correction, edification, encouragement, refining, etc. What further validates this point is that Jesus Christ Himself went to church regularly. (**Lk. 4:16**) The text says it was His custom to do so. If God Himself saw the need to be in church regularly, who are we to think we do not need to do the same? Are we greater than our Master? (**Jn. 13:16**) The answer is a resounding 'NO'. We need to be in church. Period.

Get Plugged in Right Away

Once you decide on a church, find out what their membership process is and commit to completing it as soon as possible. Also, during this time, you should pray and ask God to show you where He wants you to serve. As you go through the membership process, be fully present, and engage. Make sure you know concretely what the church believes and that what it believes is in line with what the Word of God teaches. This means they should be willing and able to show you in the Bible that their beliefs are Scripturally sound and Spirit-led.

Get to Serving

Now that you are a member, it is time to put your hand to the plow. Most people only associate serving with practicing love by helping those in need. It is that. There is so much more to it though. Serving is one of the primary ways God develops your giftings and the Fruit of His Spirit in you (**Gal. 5:22-25**), reveals His calling and purpose for your life, and positions you to build a solid faith system. Serving is an act of love which is the foundation of our faith and growth. (**1 John 4:7-12**)

Keep Growing

Now that you are serving, pray and ask God to lead you to the opportunities to grow and develop in your walk with Christ. Inquire about any classes and/or trainings your church offers and/or that they can recommend outside of the church, like those offered by Makeesha L. Allen Ministries (M.L.A.M.), as a supplement to attending weekly church services. Remember, your spiritual growth and development is your responsibility for which you must be intentional. This means eating as much of God's Word as you can. Doing so fortifies your roots in Christ by showing you where your life needs course correction and equipping you with the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding you need to walk with Christ successfully in every area.

(2 Tim. 3:16-17)

STEP THREE:

Do Not Quit

Do not quit....ever. You should be forewarned. There will be times you will not want to do what the Word of God tells you to do. There will be times you will not feel like all that you are doing is working to your advantage. There will be times when it will seem like you are taking one step forward and ten steps backwards. There will be times the church will hurt you. There will be times when you will fall back into your old ways. These are not negative confessions, but real manifestations of our flesh that must constantly be brought under subjection to the control of the Holy Spirit. Do not let any of this stop you from persisting in your pursuit of God's will, Word, and ways. One thing is 100% certain. You will never get to where God has for you to be if you quit. So, resolve within yourself now that quitting is never an option. Only then will you reap the harvest your Heavenly Father has in store for you here on earth and in Heaven. **(Gal. 6:9)**

This information is just to get you started. As you put one foot in front of the other, know that God is with you every step of the way. Follow His lead. Trust Him. Enjoy the journey. And no matter what, NEVER QUIT. God's got wonderful plans in store for you!

We encourage you to stay connected to M.L.A.M. by subscribing on our website and following us on all social media platforms, so you are alerted to receive daily spiritual encouragement and ministry resources designed with your spiritual growth and development in mind; listen to our Truth Carrier Podcast every Tuesday; follow our weekly Be Royally Submitted blog; watch our YouTube channel for sermons, cooking videos, Founder vlogs, etc.; join a local/virtual F.U.S.E. Group; request prayer; or sign-up for one of our life-transforming events.

Know that you are always loved, prayed for, and supported by M.L.A.M.

Much love ALWAYS.

-MLA



MAKEESHA **SALLEN**
MINISTRIES