

Praise the Lord you are now a Christian. You have received the Lord Jesus and you belong to Him. He has taken away your sin, forgiven you and given you His life. That life is eternal life and began the moment you received the Lord Jesus and He entered into your heart by the Holy Spirit. Before His death, talking to His disciples, the Lord Jesus said He was going away to prepare a place for them and would "Come again and receive them to Himself". In the same chapter in the Bible, Jesus promised to send another Comforter to be not only with us but in us. The Comforter is the Holy Spirit who is just like Jesus in nature, and when He enters our hearts it is like having Jesus inside of us. Jesus has come to us. We are Christians, "Christ Ones" because we belong to Jesus and He has taken up possession of us by dwelling in our hearts.

The "Way Ahead" is how now to live in the will of God and learn how to find the help and support we need to continue our life serving the Lord. The Holy Spirit who has entered our hearts gives us the power of God to live by. The Bible talks about having "Treasure in an earthen vessel". We are the vessels, the treasure is the wonderful life we have received, and however difficult life seems, the power inside is greater than all our problems. The Holy Spirit is to lead us into all truth. He teaches us how to pray to the Lord Jesus, and to God as our Father. When Jesus was asked how we should pray He said, "When you pray, say, "Our Father", so we need to pray to God as our Heavenly Father. Prayer does not need to be formal but just talking to God about the cares and needs of our lives, and others lives, and asking for His help and guidance in everything. Now you belong to Him, all the issues of your life, whether great or small, are very important to Him, so we can involve Jesus in all areas of our lives. Help with work, school, home, family, sickness, new job etc. ,and people we care for and their problems too. .All our cares we can "Cast on Him because He cares for us". Nothing is impossible for the Lord to sort out. As we mature, our praying, maybe, will become less about our own problems but more about the needs of others. However, there will always be times when we have to seek the Lord to help us in our own lives. We need Him daily to strengthen us in everything.

The Bible is "God's inspired book" and the whole book, when we read it with the Holy Spirit's help, will teach us about the Lord Jesus and what He has done for us. The more we read, the more we will understand Jesus' love for us and how great is "Our salvation". So Bible reading is very important. There are study notes available from Bible bookshops etc to help. But just prayerful reading is fine on its own. Start with the New Testament, the Gospels, and the Acts of the Apostles; then perhaps the books of Genesis and Exodus and some Psalms, in the Old Testament, Also read Paul, Peter and John's letters to the various churches in the New Testament, and then just keep reading.

Christians go to Church. But "Church" is not the building but the people. The word for "Church" in the Bible means "Called out ones" so that includes you. You can meet and talk and pray with other Christians, "fellowship" is the big word, and because you love the Lord Jesus and they do and you and they have received the Holy Spirit, you will find yourself at one in heart with them. The "Oneness" will extend to Christians from other countries and ethnic groups. All Christians are to put Jesus first in their lives, so wherever Christians come from, Jesus will be the most important person in their lives as He is in yours. If you don't find that, beware! There are sects and cults who say they are "Christians" but deny the deity and Lordship of Jesus Christ. They are therefore not of Jesus Christ so we keep clear from them. Why? If they really knew Jesus they would know He is the Son of God and that He is equal with His Father. As they don't they can't really know Him and therefore do not belong to Him. The building does not matter, they come in all shapes and sizes. What is important, wherever Christians meet, is that Jesus is first in everything, and belief in His death and

resurrection and His present Lordship and His second coming is firmly believed in those who speak and teach. Look around for the “Church” where you feel at home and loved and can be part of the worship of God.

“The way ahead?” Put Jesus first in everything-your choice of work, wife/husband, money matters etc. You can ask His help in everything, when you need patience for example, and, when you know what His will is, DO IT! God works in us to will and DO the things that please Him. When, we are willing, then He can help and enable us in everything. If you get things wrong and disobey Jesus and sin, pray for forgiveness and let Jesus wash you clean again. Press on then. Don’t keep feeling guilty, He has forgiven you. If there are things you don’t understand then find a really good Christian friend and pray with them over the issue. Remember at all times Jesus loves you and died for you. You are very special and important to Him. He has chosen you for eternal life. In this life and that which is to come , so God is working in your life preparing you for heaven. It is all part of His wonderful will for you.

Be confident in Him, God is very faithful and patient, and will not let you down. Even if you find it hard to believe or trust the Lord at times, tell Him. He can then speak to you, and bring the faith you need to your heart. Rejoice in Him and give “Thanks in everything”, and watch as the blessing of God enriches every part of your life through the Lord Jesus. If you have no one to ask advice from and would like help please email us on mcjpbds@tesco.net. Although we don’t have all the answers, we will try and help you and above pray for you. God Bless you. Amen

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