

A man wearing a cap, sunglasses, a backpack, and shorts is walking on a sidewalk. He is looking down at a yellow map he is holding. Above him is a black 'ONE WAY' sign with a white arrow pointing to the right. The background shows a concrete wall and some green trees.

ONE WAY →

The Only Way
Christian Pathway Series

Kerrie Price

The Only Way

Christian Pathway Series Intro

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Unless otherwise stated, all Bible quotations are from the New Living Translation.

Before we continue...it would really help if you had your own Bible, so that you could check things out for yourself. Many churches will give you a Bible if you do not have one, or will tell you where you can get one.

Notes:

- There are many different translations of the Bible, which keep the original meaning, but vary in the words used to express the meaning. Ask the pastor or minister of your church which is the best translation for you to buy. If you are not attending a church, ask at a Christian Book Store.
- When you see a reference such as - Acts 4:12 - it means the book of Acts, Chapter 4 and Verse 12.

If this little booklet is helpful to you,
please pass it on,
as this will help others who may also
be searching for truth.

Introduction

Jesus answered, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me”.



Are you searching for Truth? Are you unsure of what to believe...confused by all the different religions and beliefs put forward in the world today? Then you have come to the right place.

God loves you. He has always loved you. He will always love you.

God made you in your mother's womb and He placed in you a special gift. He gave you a mind

that can think and reason, and a freewill so that you have the power of choice.

He gave you the power to choose between good and evil, between truth and lies. If you decide to choose the things that are good and right and true, then the Holy Spirit will lead you to Jesus, and Jesus will bring you to Father God.

If you choose to come to God the Father through Jesus, who is The Only Way, then He will give you the promise of eternal life with Him in heaven. You will have the security of knowing where you will spend eternity. You will come to know God as your heavenly Father and life will never be the same again. A whole new world will open up to you.

*Do You Know Where You
Will Spend Eternity?*

My Story

Although my parents were not Christians at the time, they allowed me to attend Sunday School and at the age of five I asked Jesus to come into my life and be my best friend – and He did. I didn't understand a lot at that age, but we are saved by God's grace through faith – not through understanding.

When I was afraid, I would ask Jesus to take away all the scared feelings – and He did. When my parents argued at night, I would ask Jesus to take away all my upset feelings and to stop their fighting. He would give me peace, and very soon the fighting would settle down.

I always wanted to know God more. I didn't realise it then, but the Holy Spirit was leading me and teaching me, through the Sunday School lessons and through the words of the hymns we sang. It became apparent to me that God blessed those who put their trust in Him and punished those who turned away from Him. So, I determined that with God's help I would endeavour to live His way, to the best of my ability.

Now in my old age, I can look back over a life of fulfilment, peace and blessing. Yes, some very awful

things have happened along the way, but God has always looked after me and helped me. He has given me good people to advise me and wisdom to overcome challenges.

Jesus said, *I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.* – John 16:33

Chapter 1

Basic Truths

Many people think that Christianity is just another religion. So, let's consider why Christianity is totally different from all other religions.

1. Our God is alive and actively working in our lives today. All other religious leaders have died, and other 'gods' that are worshipped are idols created by humans. Those of us who say we don't have idols, might consider the fact that an idol can be anything we put in first place in our lives...above God. Could that even be sport, TV, Internet, money? Those things can certainly become like an idol to some people.
2. Christianity is not merely a set of rules, or an ideology, but is a real and interactive relationship with God– which does not happen in any other religion.



Probably the best place to start is to get some knowledge and understanding of who God is. We'll then cover an explanation of how to become a Christian, what it means to be a Christian, and what God asks of us when we are Christians.

Who is God?

He is a Triune God - FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT

We often use the word Trinity – but the word Trinity is not actually in the Bible. What we see in the Bible is that there is only one true God – the living God – not like other 'gods' that are worshipped in any other religion. Those are false 'gods', and usually there is a physical representation of the so-called god (an idol), which the followers worship. Sometimes the 'god' was a human being who was worshipped as a god, such as a political leader or king, or a religious guru.

These men have all died. Only Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and lives forever.

God is One God, expressed in three persons... The Father, the Son (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit.

In Genesis 1:26 we read: *Then God said, "Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us"*. This shows the plurality of God.

The 'us' refers to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who together make up the Godhead and were all present at the beginning of the world.

- Father God is the great designer/creator (Nehemiah 9:6),
- *And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.* (Genesis 1:2),
- and regarding the Son, who is the Word of God (who took on a human body, when he was born on the earth as a human being and was called Jesus), John records that *God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.* - (John 1:3)

God created us in His image/likeness, and we humans also have three parts in one person - Body, Soul and Spirit. We have our own human spirit and when we become Christians, the Holy Spirit indwells or inhabits our spirit.

The Nature and Character of God

We need to have a correct understanding of who God is to properly relate to Him.



Characteristics - God is:

- Omnipresent – present everywhere
- Omniscient – all-knowing
- Omnipotent – has all power
- Spirit
- Invisible

Q. What do you know about the nature of God? Can you name some of His qualities?

He is a God of:

• Love	Faithfulness
• Mercy	Righteousness
• Generosity	Holiness
• Salvation	Wrath (against wickedness)
• Restoration	Kindness
• Forgiveness	Revelation

He is a God who wants to be known. He reveals Himself through His Word, His Spirit and His Son. Books in the *Christian Pathway Series* on Amazon will explain more about how you can know God and how to hear His voice. He sent His Son to earth in the form of a man, so that we would have some tangible way of relating to Him. He came to show us what the Father is like.

God's plan for His people is close relationship with Himself, resulting in freedom, peace, joy and fulfilment.

Christians often talk about God's plan for us, as relating to our destiny – what we will do and become. But primarily His plan is all about relationship. He wants us to enjoy relationship with Him, to honour Him with deep reverence, but there are different levels of relationship. Many Christians only know God on a superficial level. They may want to get

closer, but don't know how. The *Christian Pathway* books will help you if you're earnestly seeking Him. He wants us to know Him intimately – but there is a process to come to that place.

God has a good plan for every person who is born, but only those who receive Him can discover that plan and see it come to pass.

People often ask: "How can God be everywhere at the same time"? Since God is not confined to a body, He is not restricted to being in one place at a time.

Just as the sun shines its light into millions of houses at the same time, so God by His Spirit indwells and shines in our hearts.

For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. – 2 Corinthians 4:6

- God sits on His throne in heaven (Revelation 7:10, 15)
- He fills the whole earth with His glory (Isaiah 6:3)
- He is in us and we are in Him. (John 17:21-23; John 4:13; and, John 14:16-20)
- His Holy Spirit fills us, and His holy presence surrounds us (Acts 13:52; and Numbers 14:21)

These are not contradictory statements. They simply express the greatness of God and His ability to be present everywhere, at one time.



The Big Two...

There are 2 truths which are fundamental to the Christian faith.

1. The Virgin Birth

Unlike every other human being, Jesus Christ was conceived and born into the world without a sin nature. Although Jesus is God and part of the Godhead, He came into the world as a human being and lived as a man on this earth. He had to leave behind all the glories and privileges of heaven to do that.

Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.
– Luke 1:34,35

This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. -
Matthew 1:18

Mary was the mother of Jesus, but God is His Father. Joseph was like a step-father to Jesus. This truth is foundational, because only a human being who was sinless could pay the price of sin for all mankind. Jesus, being the Son of God who is eternal and was with the Father from before the world was created, did not inherit the human sin nature. See 1 Peter 3:18 and 1 John 3:5. The other aspect of this, is that because Jesus is the Son of God and not merely human, the salvation He bought for us is eternal.

2. The Resurrection

The Bible teaches us that our lives do not end with physical death. Physical death is simply the means by which we pass from this life into the next. Our soul and spirit take on a new body –

But someone may ask, “How will the dead be raised? What kind of bodies will they have?” What a foolish question! When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn’t grow into a plant unless it dies first. And what you put in the ground is not the plant that will grow, but only a bare seed of wheat or whatever you are planting. Then God gives it the new body he wants it to have. A different plant grows from each kind of seed. Similarly there are different kinds of flesh—one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.

There are also bodies in the heavens and bodies on the earth. The glory of the heavenly bodies is different from the glory of the earthly bodies. The sun has one kind of glory, while the moon and stars each have another kind. And even the stars differ from each other in their glory.

It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead. Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. Our bodies are buried in

brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. For just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies. – 1 Corinthians 15:35-44

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. – Romans 8:11

Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace. Daniel 12:2

Chapter 2

Why do we need to be saved?

We need to be saved, because we have been separated from God by our sin nature as well as the sinful behaviour that every human being exhibits in various ways.

We are all born with a sin nature. You can easily see this in a very young child. You may find crayon scribbles on the wall, or milk spilled on a table. When you ask the toddler “did you do that”, almost invariably the child will reply “No”. Who taught the child to lie? No one. It just comes naturally, because of the inbuilt sin nature.

Now the Bible teaches, *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.* - Romans 6:23

How are we saved?

People give a lot of different answers when asked this question...

Many people think that there are various ways to God. Often they'll say, *I'm a good person*, or *I pray*, *read the Bible*, *go to church*, or even *I keep the Ten*

Commandments – but although these are good things to do and may enlighten you about God – none of these means can save you.

We believe that we are all saved the same way, by the undeserved grace of the Lord Jesus. - Acts 15:11

The Bible, speaking of Jesus, tells us:

There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.
– Acts 4:12

Our part is to repent of our sin and make a decision to receive Christ as our Saviour. However, just praying a prayer does not mean we have been saved/born again. There must be a supernatural transaction (think of a transaction taking place in a bank) that takes place in the spiritual realm, whereby the Holy Spirit connects with our spirit.

As we reach out to God in faith, confessing and believing that Jesus died to pay the price for our sin, then God responds out of His grace and causes this transaction to take place. By this means we become a child of God - a new creation in Christ.

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; - Ephesians 2:8 (NASB).

What Does It Mean to Be Born Again?

If we are saved, then we have been born again. We use these words interchangeably, because they mean (in essence) the same thing.

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. "Rabbi," he said, "we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you."

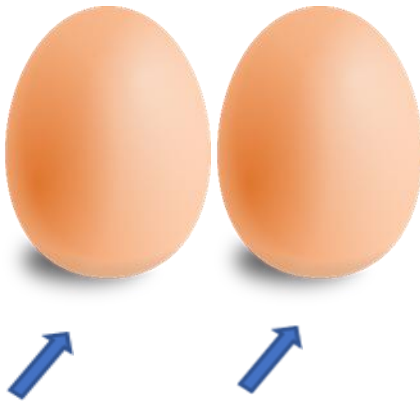
Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

"What do you mean?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?"

Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don't be surprised when I say, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."

– John 3:1-8

To illustrate, we will use the example of two eggs. One was bought from a Supermarket and the other came from a farmyard where there was a rooster. Only one has been fertilized.



EGG EGG WITH CHICKEN

The egg which has not been fertilized, will never be anything more than an egg.

However, the egg from the farmyard has a new life within it. It is growing and changing and developing into a chicken, and one day it will break out of its shell and stand in all its fluffy glory.

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is



what we are! We have been ‘impregnated’ with the Holy Spirit. Our hearts that have been dead to God because of our sin nature, are now alive to God.

Worldly people look at us and all they see is the outer shell – they don’t know that we have the Holy Spirit in us – they don’t know that we have been made into a new creature/creation.

See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are! But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him. Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. – 1 John 3:1,2

In other words, we are still in the process of becoming the people God wants us to be. He can already see what the end result will be, although we cannot. Whereas we were once dead in sin, now we are alive in Christ and will inherit eternal life.

The words above, in italics, are from the book of 1 John. You will find 1, 2 and 3 John towards the end of the Bible. These are letters from the apostle John to the church and are different from the Gospel of John, which is located near the beginning of the New Testament (after Matthew, Mark and Luke).

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 6:23



How Can I Be Saved?

BELIEVE in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who came to earth to teach us about God the Father and to pay the debt for your sins, so that you could be redeemed and put in right relationship with God.

REPENT of your sin (tell God you are sorry for all the wrong things you have done) and determine to live God's way from now on.

INVITE Jesus into your life and let Him be Lord (the boss). At this point, the Holy Spirit will connect with your spirit, and you will be 'born again'.

Meaning of Some Words Above

DEBT – Your sin cuts you off from God and puts you in debt to Him. The Bible tells us:

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 6:23

Jesus paid our debt to God through His death on the cross.

SIN - Anything you do that is against God's standard of righteousness. It may be a 'big' thing, like murder, adultery, stealing – or it may be what we might consider a 'lesser' sin, such as being mean or rude to someone, telling a lie, or cheating in a game. In God's eyes 'sin' is 'sin', regardless of the offence.

REDEEMED – means 'bought back'. Since God made us, we belong to Him. However, humans willingly turn their backs on God and wander away from Him. The Bible says:

All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him (Jesus) the sins of us all. – Isaiah 53:6

When Jesus Christ died on the cross, He paid the debt for your sins and 'bought you back' for God. When you invite Him to come into your life you are 'born again' (saved by grace through faith). You become a child of God and receive the gift of eternal life. Eternal life means that when you pass from this life into the next, it is only like the shadow of death and not the real thing. You will close your eyes on this life...and open them in the Presence of God.

REPENT – The word 'repent' literally means 'to turn your back on' (in this case – 'sin'). It implies regret, sorrow, remorse, shame. To repent also means a change of heart and mind. When you repent, you turn away from a sinful life and now desire to live a holy and righteous life.

When you are born again, your sins are washed away, and you receive the power to triumph over sin in the future. This doesn't mean that you will never sin again, but it does mean that you will not want to sin and will be very upset with yourself when you do. If you sin, simply talk to the Lord and tell Him you are sorry. Ask for His help not to do that thing again. Remember that your sin is already paid

for, so you can be assured of God's forgiveness. Sometimes we find it hard to forgive ourselves, even though God has forgiven us. Don't allow the enemy (Satan) to make you feel guilty, once your sin has been confessed and forgiven.

Be aware though, that if you have broken the law or done something worthy of punishment, you may still face that punishment even though God has forgiven you. It is the Grace of God through the Holy Spirit that leads us to repentance. *Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?* - Romans 2:4

It is not possible to be truly saved without repentance, because after we are saved God expects us to live a holy life. We cannot do that in our own strength, but when we have a change of heart and desire to live God's way, the Holy Spirit will not only help us to change, but He will actually bring about the changes in our lives as we trust Him to do that.

GRACE - The grace of God is often described as the unmerited, or

undeserved, favour and mercy of God, which makes it possible for us to respond to His offer of salvation.

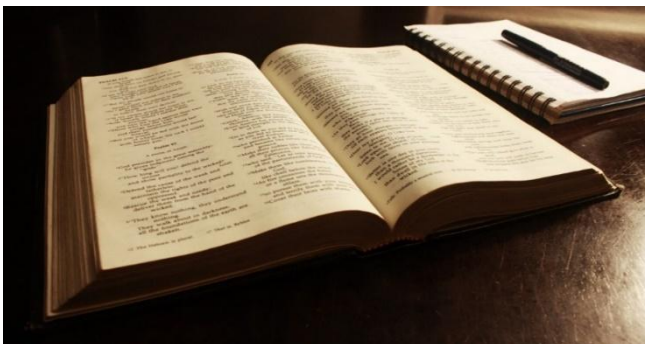
Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory. – Romans 5:1,2

So, our access into God's grace is received by faith.

FAITH - Faith is more than mere belief. It is a strong conviction, trust and assurance that what we believe is absolutely true.

Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. - Hebrews 11:1

Read the first 8 chapters of Romans for greater understanding.



Chapter 3

The Fall of Man

It is important to understand why we need to be saved, what God's plan was in the beginning and how it affects humanity today.

Read Genesis 1:26-31 and Genesis 2:1-3.

Now here is the account of the first two people on earth. Genesis 2:4-10, 15-25 and Genesis 3.



Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made. The LORD God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground--trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. – Genesis 2:8,9

Points to Note:

1. God gave clear instructions to Adam.
Up until that time he had no knowledge of evil and God did not want him to eat of that tree, because he would then be exposed, not only to the knowledge of evil but also to the reality and consequences of evil.

The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. But the LORD God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden - except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die." - Genesis 2:15-17

Eve had not yet been created. You can read about her creation in Genesis 2:18-22

2. *The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" - Genesis 3:1*

Satan (who appeared in the garden as a serpent), comes to tempt us by lying about God's intentions.

Q Can you give an example of how Satan does that today?

A He tries to tell us that it's OK to lie, or get drunk, or have sex outside of marriage...because 'everyone is doing it'.

3. God said if the man ate the fruit, he would die. Eve also knew what God had said. There was no doubt in their minds.

4. The people God had made disobeyed Him, showing that they trusted the enemy's lies more than they trusted God. It brought immediate spiritual death. Where their spirit had been alive to God – now they were dead. Later they also died physically, which was not what God wanted for them, but was a result of the choice they made.

When Adam and Eve had children, their children were born with the same deadness in their spirit, and every child who has been born since then, is in the same condition. The only way that we can be made alive to God, is to repent of our sin (be sorry for it and willing to turn away from it) and receive Christ as Saviour. We make a choice to follow God's way and obey His Word.

Adam and Eve were made with a body, a soul and a spirit (three in one).



God knew what would happen, because He knows everything, but He had a plan to redeem mankind to Himself. He sent His Son Jesus Christ to the earth to live as a man, to suffer all the temptations we experience, but without giving in to sin, and then to die at the hands of men to pay the punishment for our sins. Jesus left behind all the glories of heaven and was born as a human baby. He lived and died just as God had planned, but then He rose from the dead in a glorified body, and showed Himself to many hundreds of people, before being taken up to heaven in full view of the crowd of people.

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

Now, everyone who believes that Jesus died to pay for their sin and invites Him into their lives, is born again by the Spirit of God and receives the gift of eternal life. One day He is coming back to take us home to heaven, where we will be with Him forever. Those who have died as Christians will be raised up with us. Those who have ignored, or turned their backs on Christ, will be cut off from God forever.

You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. –

Colossians 2:13

For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us. Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever. So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing. – 1

Thessalonians 5:9-11

Chapter 4

Why Christians Believe the Bible

There are many ways that we can vouch for/attest to the authenticity of the Bible.

For me personally, the best proof I have found is that if I do what the Bible says...it works.

Before you become a Christian, the Bible can seem like just a lot of words. However, once we are saved, the Holy Spirit makes the Word of God 'come alive' for us. Now we find that we can understand the scriptures so much better. The words we read bring us comfort and encouragement, understanding and hope.

The next best reason I know the Bible is true, is that God has preserved His Word over many centuries, in spite of governments and anti-Christian regimes who have tried to destroy it.

Check out the video links below, to hear more about how we can know the Bible is true.

<https://youtu.be/XtNcbu5oHQU>

<https://youtu.be/z9PAX-2ZABk>

Chapter 5

Jesus Holds Everything Together

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see - such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. – Colossians 1:15-17



God's Message of Love

God loves us all – every human being that He has created – but we need to respond to His love by receiving Him into our lives.

He gave us the Bible (God's Word) to teach us about Himself and ourselves, and how we belong together.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. - John 3:16-18

Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit. – 1Peter 3:18

Will you ask Jesus to come into your life today?

If you are ready to make that decision – you can pray this prayer today:

Lord Jesus, I believe that you came to earth as a man and suffered and died to pay the price for my sin. I am really sorry for all the wrong things I have done. I know that I have made many wrong choices in my life.

Today, I want to leave all that behind. I am asking you Lord Jesus, to come into my life and change me. Please forgive me all my sin and make me a child of God. Help me to get to know you. Thank you for making the way open for me to come to God, and for sending your Holy Spirit to teach me.

I am making the decision today to live your way. Help me to turn my back on all that is evil and destructive in this world, and to build a new life based on your Truth as it is in the Bible, which I now recognize as God's Word.

I pray this in your Name, Lord Jesus.

Sincerely,

Signed.....

Date.....

NOTE: You may like to keep this as a reminder of the decision you have made.

Please tell someone what you have done, as this is an important part of your new Christian life.

*May the LORD bless you and protect
you.*

*May the LORD smile on you and be
gracious to you.*

*May the LORD show you his favour
and give you his peace.*

– Numbers 6:24-26

MY NOTES

How to get to heaven from where you are right now!

Are you searching for truth? Are you confused by all the different religions claiming to be the right way?

This little booklet will help you get started on the greatest adventure of your life. Along the way you will discover your true identity, love like you have never experienced before, and the peace of mind and heart you always wanted...that is, if you decide to follow the roadmap.

God is waiting to welcome you into His Family. He loves you and wants you to succeed in life.

Get started today.

