

Welcome to Your
NEW LIFE

LAWRENCE KHONG

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750A Chai Chee Road #04-01

Viva Business Park

Singapore 469001

Tel: (65) 6424 9400

Fax: (65) 6424 9500

E-mail: info@fcbc.org.sg

Website: www.fcbc.org.sg

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 **FCBC**



Congratulations!

When you invited Jesus into your life, you made the best and most important decision of your life. As a result of receiving Jesus, you are now a child of God and have been given eternal life. Eternal life is not just about going to heaven after you die. It begins once you invite Jesus into your life. It is a new life of relating with God as His child. Welcome to your new life!

Let me guide you on what is ahead of you as a Christian.

LET US REVIEW YOUR DECISION TO INVITE JESUS INTO YOUR LIFE

You need a Saviour

The Bible tells us that God is both powerful and loving. Because He is powerful, He is able to help us solve our problems. Because He is loving, He wants to help us solve these problems. He can heal diseases, control circumstances, and above all, transform our lives. Many Christians can testify of how God has touched them and turned their lives around.

While God loves mankind, the problem is that every one of us, without exception, has sinned against Him. In Romans 3:23 the Bible states, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Sin is not just committing terrible crimes like rape or murder. Rather sin is the condition of our hearts that produces words or actions which violate the laws of God. The Bible says, “We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way...” (Isaiah 53:6).

Sin is the desire to go our own way, to live our own life, to be our own master, instead of acknowledging God as our Master. Sin is being king of our own life. It is this condition of self-centredness and independence from God that produces words and actions which hurt others and dishonour God. This sinful condition is sometimes expressed in an attitude of active rebellion against God. More often, it is expressed in the form of passive indifference towards God.

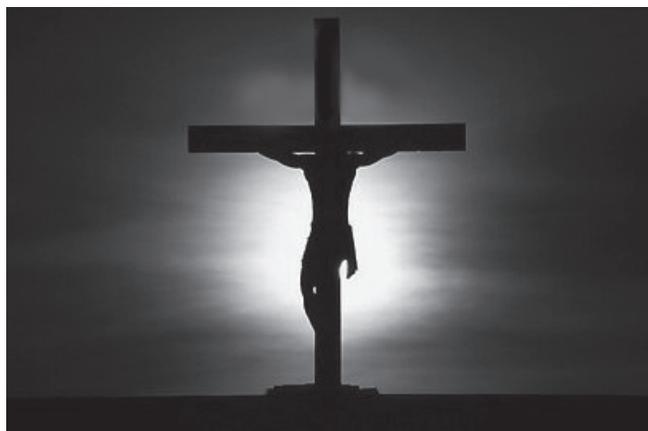
Romans 2:8 says, "But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath..." and Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death..." Hence, mankind has a problem - he is under wrath and faces the death penalty for his sin.

Faced with this problem, man tries, whether consciously or unconsciously, to be religious or to do good. But all our attempts to save ourselves fall short. The Bible says, "...all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind, our sins sweep us away" (Isaiah 64:6).

So there is nothing we can do to help ourselves. This is why we all need a Saviour.

God provided the Saviour

Some wonder how God can be loving and yet allow mankind to come under such a harsh sentence for sin. They forget that while God is loving, He is also just. If a man is convicted of murder, it is expected of the judge to mete out the death sentence. No one would question if the judge is loving.



Suppose a judge has sentenced a murderer to death. Would he then take off his judicial wig and robe, walk down the courtroom and offer himself to be taken away for execution in place of the murderer? Yet this is exactly what God has done for us because He loves us.

God took the death penalty upon Himself by sending His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the Cross for our sins.

As a result, when we receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, we will receive forgiveness of sin and gain eternal life. Since Jesus has borne the penalty of sin on our behalf, we need not bear it. The Bible says, "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" (John 3:16). Therefore, when man could do nothing to help himself, God showed His love by offering him salvation in Jesus. All it takes to obtain this salvation is to believe in Jesus and receive Him into your life as your Lord and Saviour.

Receiving Jesus as your Lord and Saviour

Have you prayed to invite Jesus into your life as your Lord and Saviour? Have you asked Him to forgive your sins and have you surrendered your life to Him? If not, why not do so right now by praying the following prayer:

Lord Jesus, I confess that I am a sinner. Thank You for taking my place on the Cross and dying for my sins. I need You as my Lord and Saviour. Please forgive all my sins and give me eternal life. I renounce all the gods I have worshipped in the past. From now on, I will worship You only. Lord Jesus, please come into my life and be the Lord of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU INVITE JESUS INTO YOUR LIFE ?

You become a child of God

If you have prayed the preceding prayer or something similar, and meant it in your heart, then you have received Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. According to the Bible, you have become a child of God. “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).

Jesus now comes to live in you in the Person of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is given to you when you believe, as a pledge that you are God’s child. “...Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory” (Ephesians 1:13-14).

Think for a moment. You are now a child of God Almighty, Creator of the universe, and the Spirit of God lives in you. What a great privilege!

Your sins are forgiven and you have eternal life

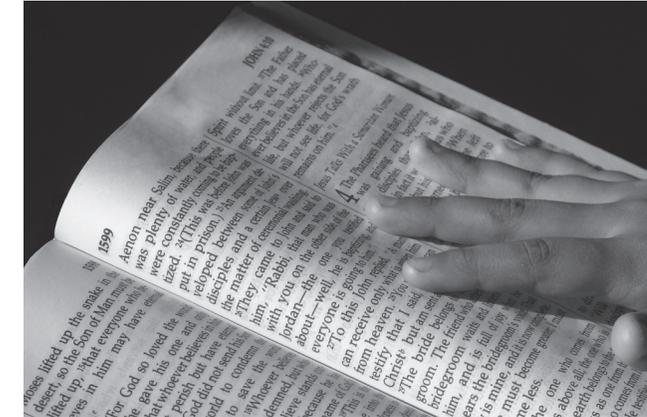
Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life” (John 5:24). Therefore, when you believe in Jesus and receive Him, your sins are forgiven and you have eternal life.

What is eternal life? Jesus said, “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent” (John 17:3). Hence, eternal life is a life of knowing God and relating with Him as His child. So when you invite Jesus into your life, you begin a journey of relating with God and knowing Him personally and intimately. It will be an exciting and enjoyable journey ahead.

HOW CAN YOU GROW IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS ?

Jesus said of our relationship with Him, “Instead I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father, I have made known to you” (John 15:15). Now that you have begun this friendship with Jesus, seek to grow in it. In the process you will begin to fulfil God’s destiny for your life by producing fruit that will last (John 15:16), leading others to Christ.

Spend time with God



To develop your friendship with Jesus, spend time with Him daily. You can do this by reading the Bible and praying. Start by getting a Bible and reading the Gospel of Mark to find out more about Jesus’ life and teachings. Read a short passage of the Bible every day. Ask God to show you more about who He is and what He wants you to do. Think about what you read and He will share with you many new thoughts concerning Himself and you.

He will make the Bible very meaningful and personal to you. Then ask Him to help you apply what you have learned in your daily living.

Prayer is talking with God. Speak to Him about your daily life. Tell Him about the situations you are facing and about your needs. Seek His guidance for your life. Pour out your heart to Him, as you would to a close friend. And don’t just pray for yourself. Pray for others too.

It is good to fix a time each day to spend with Him. Some prefer mornings, while others find evenings more suitable. What is important is that you set aside time to meet with Him. But don’t just read the Bible and pray. Instead, learn to enjoy His presence during this time. As you spend time daily with Jesus, you will find yourself growing in your knowledge of Him. You will find that He becomes a very close friend to you.

Be involved in a cell group



It is also important that you receive help and care from fellow Christians in order to grow in your relationship with Jesus. This is why we have cell groups in our church. In a cell group, you will be able to meet more mature believers who can help you grow. As you relate with them, you will observe what it means to be a believer and how more mature believers live and serve. Therefore, get involved in a cell group as soon as possible.

Your cell leader will assign someone to guide you through the initial period of your Christian life. He/She is someone you can turn to for support, prayer and encouragement.

Each week, all the cell groups will come together at a celebration service to worship God and hear His Word being taught. You will find it very beneficial to attend these celebration services.

As you get involved in the church, you will be introduced to equipping courses. Participating in these courses will help you grow in your relationship with God. Start with LifeClass which will lead you to experience God in a personal and powerful way. Find out more about LifeClass from your cell leader.

Making the decision to receive Jesus is just the beginning. Once again, welcome to your new life! Now that you have begun, seek to grow. May God bless you as you seek to grow in your new and exciting relationship with Him.