

SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR YOUR JOURNEY

To get the most from this “journey,” you must be spiritually prepared. The basic preparation is knowing Jesus Christ as Lord (boss) and Savior, so He can be your spiritual Guide on the journey. If you have never received Him, or if you are not sure, there are four things you must understand . . .

1. God loves you and wants you to have eternal life.

The Bible says, *For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life* (John 3:16*). The Bible also says, *But God commendeth [proved] his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us* (Romans 5:8*).

2. You are sinful, and your sin separates you from God.

The Bible says, *For all have sinned, -- and come short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23*). Sin separates us from God, for the Bible says, *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you . . .* (Isaiah 59:2*).

3. Only in Jesus Christ can forgiveness of sin and salvation be yours.

Jesus said, *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me* (John 14:6*). You must believe God loved us so much He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross to provide the way of salvation and that on the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead (Rom. 10:9)

Right now you may be thinking, “I already believe these things.” Well, the Bible teaches it is not a matter of just believing, for *the devils also believe, and tremble* (James 2:19b*). Simply believing Adolf Hitler lived and died doesn’t make you a Nazi, and believing Jesus Christ lived and died doesn’t make you a Christian. You must act upon what you believe.

4. You must repent and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

It is not enough to agree that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who died on the cross for your sins and rose again. You must repent of your sins. Jesus said to be saved you must *repent* and *believe the gospel* (Mark 1:15*). *Repent* means to turn away from your selfishness and sin and turn control of your life over to Jesus Christ. If you sense your need to repent of your sins and be saved, that is the Holy Spirit drawing you to Christ. Jesus said no one can come to Him unless the Father draws him (John 6:44*).

If you will pray the following prayer right now, or pray in your own words, telling God you are repenting of your sins and inviting Jesus Christ into your heart, you can receive Him today as your Lord and Savior. The words are not as important as what you mean in your heart. Jesus said a man at the temple simply prayed, *God be merciful to me a sinner* and went to his house *justified*, or saved (Luke 18:13-14*).

Dear Lord,

I know I have sinned. Right now, I repent of my sins and ask for Your forgiveness. I ask Jesus to be my Lord, to control my life, and to help me become the person You want me to be. Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the cross so I could be forgiven. Amen.

Now, share your decision with your pastor or teacher.

*Scriptures from KJV