

PATHWAY TO A GODLY LIFE

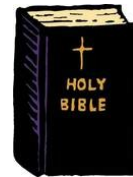


Some men I know have been sentenced to prison without the chance of ever getting out. Their confinement is real. Their steel bars are real. Life can seem hopeless. I, on the other hand, am free to leave prison when I visit. But, I have not always been free. I once was a prisoner too, but of a different type. I was captive to the nature I was born with. But I chose to be freed from the control of that nature and to desire to let God guide me. Here are the steps along my pathway from prisoner to the person God created me – and all people – to be.

These Bible references are taken from a number of translations and paraphrases. They often are not the complete verse in order to focus on a point, but the meaning has not been intentionally altered. It is recommended that you read the verse and surrounding verses for yourself.

- God created man in His own image/likeness.
Genesis 1:27; 5:1
- However Adam disobeyed God. Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?
Genesis 3:11
- Adam's disobedient/sinful nature and its consequences have been inherited by men since then. By Adam's disobedience many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of Jesus many will be made righteous.
Romans 5:19
Sin has separated us from God.
Isaiah 59:2

- God desires to bring us back to Himself. Jesus came to save sinners.
1 Timothy 1:15
Turn from sin and turn to God (repent) and believe the good news. Mark 1:15
Christ was sacrificed on the cross to pay for our sins.
Hebrews 9:28
God loved the world so much that He sent His Son so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16
Jesus said I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6
Jesus said I will come again and take you to be with Me that you may be where I am.
John 14:3



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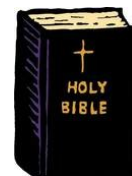


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<p>• When we believe in Jesus as our Savior :</p> <p>1) We become new people. When anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old moral and spiritual condition has passed away. The fresh and new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17 We are God's handiwork recreated in Christ Jesus to do good deeds. Ephesians 2:10 Put off the old nature. Renew your mind and put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4:22-24 Put on the new self which is being remolded into the image of its creator. Colossians 3:10</p> <p>2) We are given the Holy Spirit. Jesus will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. Matthew 3:11 Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of your sin acknowledging Him as Savior and Lord, and you shall receive the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38 (Water baptism is symbolic of the burial of our old nature with Jesus and then being raised to a new life as He was. Romans 6:1-11)</p>	<p>3) Jesus should become Lord of our life – our #1 priority. God has given the Holy Spirit to live in you. Your body does not belong to you; you were bought when Jesus paid for your sin. So use your body to glorify God. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Jesus said you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength. Luke 10:27 For us there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 8:6 If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. John 14:15 Go and make disciples of all nations teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. Matthew 28:19-20</p> <p>4) Sin will not have power over us unless we yield to its temptation. We are not obligated to live controlled by our old sinful nature. But if we live in the power of the Holy Spirit deadening the evil deeds of our old nature, we shall live. Romans 8:12-13</p>	<p>God will provide a way to overcome temptation. 1 Corinthians 10:13 Know what the Bible says and it will help to defeat temptation. Matthew 4:1-11; Psalm 119:9-16 Do not yield your body to sin but yield yourselves as men who have been brought from death to a righteous life. Romans 6:12-13</p> <p>5) We are to be holy like He is holy. As He who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct. 1 Peter 1:15 We should be living holy, godly lives. 2 Peter 3:11 Let us cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit and reach the goal of holiness out of reverence for God. 2 Corinthians 7:1 Pursue holiness, without which no one will see the Lord. Hebrews 12:14 Imitate Jesus, and take on His attitude of being God's obedient servant. Philippians 2:5-8</p>
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