

Other titles in this series,

Our Wonderful Guest - The Holy Spirit

Heaven

Life after death

Growing in Christ

Becoming a real Christian

Worry

Discouragement

Loneliness

Fruit of The Spirit

Relationships

Anger

Fear

Help for Today

Jesus is Coming

Forgiveness

Grief and Loss

Investing for the Future

When God Doesn't Explain Why.

Guidance

Scripture is taken from the Holy Bible

New International Version

and The New Living Bible.

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Stained Glass Window (inside cover) by Nita Brown

Congratulations! You have taken a leap of faith. You can now call yourself a Christian. Being a Christian is a walk of faith, it is an exciting journey as you see where God takes you and how he leads you.

To help you in your journey, tell someone else today what you have done. Find a Bible and begin reading it. You may want to start with the Gospel of John and read some of it every day. Find a church where you can meet with God's people and share in worship and praise with them. Find someone who will pray with you and help you to understand all about what it means to be a Christian. Join a beginners course for new Christians like "Alpha", "Lifeworks", "Christianity Explained" or "Introducing God". Don't be afraid to let others see that Jesus Christ is living in you.

Life will not become trouble free, but with the faith that Jesus is in control of your life rather than you yourself, you can have the confidence and the strength to face life and make Godly choices every day.



by
Egerton C. Long

If you were asked to name the absolute necessities we must have to sustain life, how would you reply? Would you say air, light, water, what else? How long could we live without air or without water? These elements are basic to our existence but for normal living much more is necessary. We often hear of remarkable experiences people have gone through without food or water but to ensure a healthy balanced life, much more is required.

Two of the most precious necessities for life that we often take for granted are water and light. They are God's gifts to us to help sustain human life. Where would we be without either of them?

Jesus – the bearer of the water of life and the source of the light of the world.

When Jesus Christ was on earth he spoke of these two precious elements as being pictures of himself and how it is through knowing him that our deeper needs can be satisfied. Jesus is depicted in the Bible as the bearer of the water of life and the source of the light of the world. Jesus offers us not simply something that will quench our thirst, or light our path today, but he gives us the hidden spiritual depths of his "living water" and the truth of his "light" to help us in our journey through life.

them eternal life with him in heaven.

He will also guide you through the difficulties of life and show you the way to live for him and the pathway he wants you to take. His Spirit, we call the Holy Spirit, will come to live within you when you accept Jesus into your life as your saviour and guide. The Holy Spirit also promises to be our comforter and gives us strength and boldness in our weak human frailty. God has also given us the Bible - His word and His guidebook. It will come alive for you when Jesus Christ has come into your heart because the Spirit will 'enlighten' you or make the meaning clear.

How can I accept Jesus into my life?

Here is a simple prayer you can say if you really want Jesus Christ to come into your life. "Lord Jesus I see my need of you. Come into my life and meet the needs of my heart. I see I am a sinner away from God. I come to you now and ask you save me from my sins. With your help I want to completely turn away from wrong doing and live for you. I know that I can only do this with the help of your Holy Spirit living within me. Please Lord Jesus be my saviour from today, right through my life and into heaven. I am willing for you to be in control of my life and guide my steps from now on." Now believe he has come in and thank him for it.

Jesus is still doing this for all who seek and ask. He is offering a gift but it is up to us to accept it. God is not 'pushy' and has not created us like robots. We have to decide to change and accept God's wonderful gift for ourselves. We have to reach out in faith and take the gift and say thank you.

An invitation to meet Jesus

How is your satisfaction level right now? Are you happy or are you still looking for something or someone who could meet your needs and move into your life and give you the satisfaction in life you have been searching for? Jesus can do that if you will ask him.

Would you be willing to allow Jesus Christ to come into your life, to satisfy the thirst your heart has for peace and security and to give you light for the road ahead? He is waiting to do that for you.

If you have never accepted Jesus before, quietly and simply now, will you admit you have a need in your heart and life that nothing else has been able to satisfy? No one can meet that need except Jesus Christ. He is standing at the door of your heart and life and asking, "Can I come in"? He has promised that if anyone will listen to his voice and open the door of their heart, he will come in and meet all the needs of that heart and life. Jesus will also remain with that person for ever and give

A person who accepts the truth that Jesus brings, is energized by a completely new sense of freedom, especially from past failures and fears, abuse or the stress of life that can so easily bind us.

On one occasion, recorded in the Gospel of John 7:37, Jesus challenged those who were longing for satisfaction in life to come to him and find what they desperately needed. His words were: "If any man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink". He promised not just satisfaction but an overflowing experience that would last for ever. In the same book in chapter 4, it says that Jesus told the woman at the well in Samaria that he could give her living water which would meet the deep need of her heart. She did not understand this at first but as he talked she realised that Jesus could give her the peace and the satisfaction she had been trying to find for many years.

In the last book of the Bible, Revelation chapter 21:6, Jesus repeats this thought of being able to satisfy the thirsty heart. He said, "To all who are thirsty I will give you the water of life - without cost". Again he was speaking of his coming into any life and heart which would open up to him, with the promise that he would meet the deepest needs of that life.

What else can Jesus do?

Another way in which Jesus said he can meet our needs is found in his statement in John 8:12 where Jesus said “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you will not be stumbling in the darkness because you will have the light that leads you into life.” What did he mean by that? When we first accept Jesus we see ourselves blinded by sin and far away from God. He can remove that darkness and lead us into a lasting relationship with God the Father. He also lights the pathway ahead of us as with a torch or a lantern, just one step at a time, and so he guides us day by day as we follow that road.

As we walk in that light we find there are many others following on the same road and we can have what the Bible calls ‘fellowship’, with one another. We are no longer lonely and walking through life aimlessly. It is a wonderful experience to find many others walking that road with us and with Jesus. He guides us day by day as we follow him.

God’s rescue plan

God has always known that we cannot find this water or see his light, because our disobedience and determination to live without God have blinded us from the truth. The Bible calls this sin, where we have chosen our own way in life instead of what God had planned for us as his creation. We see

evidence of this all over the world with widespread moral chaos and heartache. The good news is that God has always had a plan to rescue us because he loves us so much. John 3:16 says “For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”.

His rescue or ‘salvation’ plan was to send his only Son Jesus into the world as a human baby so he could grow and live like we do, experience all the things we do, be acquainted with our trials and sympathise with our griefs. It was God’s plan that Jesus, who was perfect and without sin, would endure a sacrificial death to pay the debt for the sin of all mankind. If we choose to accept God’s gift of salvation, it makes it possible for us to live in relationship with Jesus now and for all eternity.

You may be thinking this is a strange thing for God to do to his own son and that it is difficult to understand. God did this in a way that staggers our imagination but it is his remarkable plan which many millions of people across the world have accepted and come to know Jesus Christ as their personal saviour and friend. Jesus has moved into their lives and satisfied their inner desires. They feel they have been washed clean and have a fresh start in life. They can now see clearly in the light that God has provided through Jesus.