

Your
LIFE
IN
GOD

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R. A. Torrey



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Publisher's note:

The author's selection of Bible versions has been retained whenever possible, including the Revised Version when it was originally cited. The text of this book, however, has been updated for the modern reader. Words, expressions, and sentence structure have been revised for clarity and readability.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible. Scripture quotations marked (RV) are taken from the Revised Version of the Holy Bible.

Your Life in God

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Introduction



New Christians need a book that will outline basic principles of their faith so they will enjoy complete success in their new life. Since I could not find such a book, I wrote one myself. This book aims to tell the new convert just what he needs to know most. I hope that pastors, evangelists, and other Christian workers will find it a good book to give young converts. I hope it will also prove helpful to many who have been Christians for a long time but have not made the headway they desire in their Christian life.

1

Beginning Right



Beginning the Christian life with a solid, correct foundation influences the success of the remainder of a Christian's life. However, if someone has started life with Jesus, yet is unsure of his foundation, it is simple for him to strengthen it with solid Christian principles.

Receive Jesus as Savior

We are told the right beginning for the Christian life in John 1:12, "*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*" The right way to begin the Christian life is by receiving Jesus Christ. He immediately gives power to become a child of God to anyone who receives Him.

If the reader of this book was the most wicked man on earth, and then he received Jesus Christ,

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that very instant he would become a child of God. God promises this in the most unqualified way in the verse quoted above. No one can become a child of God any other way. No man, no matter how carefully he has been raised, no matter how well he has been sheltered from the vices and evils of this world, is a child of God until he receives Jesus Christ. We are *“children of God by faith in Christ Jesus”* (Gal. 3:26) and in no other way.

What does it mean to receive Jesus Christ? It means to accept Christ as all God offers Him to be for everybody. Jesus Christ is God’s gift. *“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).

Some accept this wondrous gift of God. Everyone who does accept this gift becomes a child of God. Many others refuse this wondrous gift of God, and everyone who refuses this gift perishes. They condemn themselves. *“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God”* (John 3:18).

Jesus Is Our Sin-Bearer

What does God offer His Son to be to us?

First of all, God offers Jesus to us to be our Sin-Bearer. We all have sinned. There is not a man or woman, a boy or girl, who has not sinned. *“Even*

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the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:22–23). If any of us say that we have not sinned, we are deceiving ourselves and giving the lie to God. “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us...If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” (1 John 1:8, 10). Each of us must bear our own sin, or someone else must bear it in our place. If we were to bear our own sins, it would mean we must be banished forever from the presence of God, for God is holy. “God is light, and in him is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5).

But God Himself has provided another to take responsibility for our sins so that we do not need to bear them ourselves. This Sin-Bearer is God’s own Son, Jesus Christ, *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor. 5:21).*

When Jesus Christ died upon the cross of Calvary, He redeemed us from the curse of the law by being made a curse in our stead. *“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree” (Gal. 3:13).* To receive Christ, then, is to believe this testimony of God about His Son, to believe that Jesus Christ did bear our sins in His own body on the cross. *“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed” (1 Peter 2:24).* We know

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we can trust God to forgive all our sins because Jesus Christ has borne them in our place.

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isa. 53:6). Our own good works—past, present, or future—have nothing to do with the forgiveness of our sins. Our sins are forgiven, not because of any good works we do, but because of the atoning work of Christ on the cross of Calvary in our place. If we rest in this atoning work, we will do good works. But our good works will be the outcome of our being saved and our believing on Christ as our Sin-Bearer. Our good works will not be the ground of our salvation, but the result of our salvation and the proof of it.

We must be very careful not to believe in our good works as the basis of salvation. We are not forgiven because of Christ’s death *and our good works*; we are forgiven solely and entirely because of Christ’s death. To see this clearly is the right beginning of the true Christian life.

Our Deliverer from Sin

God offers Jesus to us as our Deliverer from the power of sin. Jesus not only died, He rose again. Today He is a living Savior. He has all power in heaven and on earth. *“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth”* (Matt. 28:18). He has the power to keep the weakest sinner from falling. *“Now unto him that is able*

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to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy” (Jude 24). He is able to save not only from the worst but also elevate to the highest all who come unto the Father through Him. “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them” (Heb. 7:25). “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:36).

To receive Jesus is to believe what God tells us in His Word about Him: to believe that He did rise from the dead; to believe that He now lives; to believe that He has the power to keep us from falling; and to believe that He has the power to keep us from sin day by day. Then, we must trust Him to do what He has said.

This is the secret of daily victory over sin. If we try to fight sin with our own strength, we are bound to fail. If we look up to the risen Christ to keep us every day and every hour, He will keep us. Through the crucified Christ, we get deliverance from the guilt of sin, our sins are all blotted out, and we are free from all condemnation. But it is through the risen Christ that we get daily victory over the power of sin.

Some receive Christ as Sin-Bearer and thus find pardon, but they do not get beyond that. Thus their life is one of daily failure. Others receive Him as their risen Savior also, and they experience victory over sin. To begin right, we must take Him not only as our Sin-Bearer, and thus find pardon; we must also take

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Him as our risen Savior and our daily Deliverer from the power of sin.

Jesus Is Lord

God offers Jesus to us, not only as our Sin-Bearer and our Deliverer from the power of sin, but He also offers Him to us as our Lord and King. We read in Acts 2:36, *“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”* Lord means divine Master, and Christ means anointed King.

To receive Jesus is to take Him as our divine Master, as the One to whom we yield the absolute confidence of our intellects. Believe He is the One in whose Word we can believe absolutely, the One in whom we will believe though many of the wisest men may question or deny the truth of His teachings. Because He is our King, we gladly yield absolute control of our lives to Him, so that the question from this time on is: What would my King Jesus have me do? A correct beginning involves an unconditional surrender to the lordship and kingship of Jesus.

The failure to realize that Jesus is Lord and King, as well as Savior, has led to many a false start in the Christian life. We begin with Him as our Savior, our Sin-Bearer, and our Deliverer from the power of sin. We must not end with Him merely as Savior; we must know Him as Lord and King. There is nothing more important in a right beginning of Christian life than an unconditional surrender, both of thoughts

and conduct, to Jesus. Say from your heart and say it again and again, "All for Jesus."

Surrender Your Life to Jesus

Many fail because they shrink back from this entire surrender. They wish to serve Jesus with half their heart, part of themselves, and part of their possessions. To hold back anything from Jesus means a wretched life of stumbling and failure.

The life of entire surrender is a joyous life all along the way. If you have never done it before, go alone with God today, get down on your knees, and say, "All for Jesus," and mean it. Say it very earnestly; say it from the bottom of your heart. Stay there until you realize what it means and what you are doing. It is a wondrous step forward when one really takes it.

If you have taken it already, take it again, and take it often. It always has fresh meaning and brings fresh blessing. In this absolute surrender is found the key to all truth. "*If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself*" (John 7:17). In this absolute surrender is found the secret of power in prayer. (See 1 John 3:22.) In this absolute surrender is found the supreme condition of receiving the Holy Spirit. "*And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him*" (Acts 5:32).

Taking Christ as your Lord and King involves obedience to His will as far as you know it in each

small detail of life. There are those who tell us they have taken Christ as their Lord and King who at the same time are disobeying Him daily. They disobey Him in business, domestic life, social life, and personal conduct. These people are deceiving themselves. You have not taken Jesus as your Lord and King if you are not striving to obey Him in everything each day. He Himself says, "*Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*" (Luke 6:46).

To sum it all up, the right way to begin the Christian life is to accept Jesus Christ as your Sin-Bearer. Trust God to forgive your sins because Jesus Christ died in your place. You must accept Him as your risen Savior who lives to make intercession for you and who has complete power to keep you. Trust Him to keep you from day to day, and accept Him as your Lord and King to whom you surrender absolute control of your thoughts and life.

This is the right beginning, the only right beginning of the Christian life. If you have made this beginning, all that follows will be comparatively easy. If you have not made this beginning, make it now.