

PRAY AS SOON AS YOUR HEART SOFTENS

Pray the 'PRAYER OF SALVATION' on the back panel to totally trust in the sacrifice of Christ to save you. You may want to get alone to pray without feeling self-conscious. Use the words simply as a guide. Treat them as your own. Speak them aloud to God and let them pour from your heart as though your life depends on it, because it does! And, it's completely okay to be emotional. After all, this is a homecoming! Even angels are rejoicing with you.

You must pray until an assurance of being saved and reconciled floods your heart. Your conviction will be replaced by relief. His love, joy and peace will gush up from inside as He makes you a new person, acquitted and set free by Jesus in spite of being guilty. A desire to please God will fill your heart as He comes and makes His home in you. But, sometimes this doesn't come straight away. So, don't quit! Keep praying until this assurance breaks in on your heart.

Next, begin asking Jesus to fill you with the power of His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit releases life-giving power that enables you to make a clean break from your old ways and live to please God. You'll receive boldness to show others the goodness of God and to tell them about all that Jesus has done for you. Again, persist in prayer until you are filled.

FINAL THOUGHTS – CONGRATULATIONS!!!

If you've got that assurance then God no longer sees or even remembers your sin. It's gone! **YOU ARE FREE!** Tell someone!

Like every good relationship, you'll need to develop it. Read the Bible (or use a free Bible app) to grow in your knowledge of Jesus and His nature. The Book of John is a great place to start. Learn to interact with the Holy Spirit. He will help you live as the new creation that God planned before time. Find a church that can help you with these things. Ensure that they love Jesus and the Holy Spirit. They'll love you, and help you develop Christ's character, and to grow deeper and deeper in love with God – Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

For more information ask the person who gave you this guide. Tell them how you've been impacted. They'd love to hear!

PRAYER OF SALVATION

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for giving me this conviction. Thank you for waking me to my spiritual need.

I know in my heart that You are God. I've fallen so far short of your perfection. I've been ignoring You so that I can do my own thing. I admit that I'm a sinner.

But, I truly believe with all my heart that You came to earth as a man to live that sinless life I can't live. I believe You died for my sins so that I don't have to. And, I believe You rose from the dead to give me eternal life and to give me a new nature.

So, please forgive my sins. Hear my confession:

Now, in your own words take as much time as you need to unload your guilt by confessing every **SPECIFIC** sin that comes to mind. E.g. "Lord, please forgive me for [YOUR ACTION]. I am so sorry." Also **SPECIFICALLY** forgive everyone who has offended you: "I forgive [NAME OF PERSON] for [THEIR ACTION]," etc. When you're ready continue praying.

Thank you Jesus for hearing my prayer, for taking my guilt and declaring me innocent. Thank you for washing away my past and giving me a fresh start with You.


Please enter my heart and life now. Take over and be my Saviour and Lord. Make me a new creation with the desire to do things Your way.

Thank Him now with all your heart for all He's done.

Now Holy Spirit, empower me! Fill me with Your power so I can live with Your nature, wisdom and strength. I want to touch others for Jesus. Fill me! ... Fill me! ...

Thank you

With loving kindness from:

By Andrew Ward. Email me at reconciled@acts4life.com. Please! Tell me how you've been impacted. Give it away freely and widely, but only under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>  Other permissions considered on request. Download the latest print and mobile-friendly versions from opendoor.acts4life.com.

God's Door Is Open

Here's Some Good News

GOD IS CALLING YOU IN TO HIS FAMILY

He Is **NOT** Mad at You!

COME ENTER IN



IN THIS GUIDE YOU WILL ...

- find helpful ways to have relationship with God
- get help experiencing God and His Presence right now
- discover 3 common lies that stop people knowing God
- start functioning as God planned before time began

GOD LONGS TO DWELL WITH YOU! HE LOVES YOU!

The scene of an open door flashed across my mind. I was looking in through the front door of a home into the living area. A warm, inviting glow radiated from within. As I contemplated this scene I sensed God beckoning *“Come! Come inside out of the darkness. Come be with Me.”*

There in God’s presence was great joy. All who entered were forgiven and reunited with Him. God began dwelling inside each of them, making them entirely new people with His nature. The burdens of life were removed and their lives were flooded with His supernatural love, power and life.

At this moment you stand on the threshold. That door is open for you now. God and His light are only one step away. Regardless of whether you’re a first-timer, or have entered in the past then drifted away (i.e. backslidden), I see God drawing you through, into His family, presence and great joy. Relationship with God is real! It is interactive, loving, and infinitely more enriching than the best human ones.

You come in out of the darkness by simply accepting God’s call to be reunited with Him. Amazingly, via Jesus Christ, God has already done everything needed to be reunited (see inset ‘THE REASON JESUS HAD TO DIE’). To grasp hold of all God has done, walk through the steps below. As you do, God will walk with you helping you come in to His presence.

CHECK YOUR CURRENT STATE – A HARDENED HEART?

God is knocking at your heart right now. So let’s check to find out if you can hear those prompts.

TRY THIS HEART TEST: When you read about God’s love for you in this guide can you sense God knocking at your heart (lump in the throat, thumping heart, joy or healthy sorrow that makes you want to change, excited or anxious thoughts: *“He’s speaking to me”*)? If you can, then your heart is soft. Go to ‘PRAY AS SOON AS YOUR HEART SOFTENS’ now. Or, do you feel nothing? No desire to put things right with God? No conviction? No tears? No draw? If you can’t feel or respond to God’s prompts or they feel distant then your heart has become hardened and you are separated from Him. But, it can be softened and you can be reunited.

THE REASON JESUS HAD TO DIE

God wants us with Him **IN HEAVEN**. God is **NOT** looking for a reason to send us to Hell (i.e. eternal separation from Him). In fact, without God’s loving intervention Hell is our default destination because we are all guilty of wilfully rejecting God and His ways (i.e. sin). The just sentence for rejecting God is eternal separation from Him and His love. Without forgiveness your sin will send you to Hell.

Many try to appease this guilt and to earn His favour through things like good works or belief in other spiritual beings. But, because our sin sticks like dirt, all our efforts are like cleaning a dirty window with a dirty rag. In spite of the energy we expend, our efforts will never clean away that sin and guilt. We need a clean, pure cloth.

Great news however, God has done all that’s needed to clean away our sin and guilt and to save us from Hell. He’s given us that pure, clean cloth in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is God. Therefore He (and only He) is pure and can clean us. He cleaned us via the Cross. When He was killed, our rap sheet (sin and guilt) was swapped for His clean slate (purity and innocence). Then, by coming back to life Jesus took away sin and death’s power to control us. Now, we can spend eternity with God and live as brand new people, God’s offspring, empowered by His life and filled with desire to please Him.

But, being saved isn’t automatic. One thing is still needed ... our response. We need to: admit that our sin is offensive to God; rest from our own effort, trusting solely in the sacrifice of Christ on the cross to clean us; turn our mind, heart and actions from self to God (i.e. repent). The ‘PRAYER OF SALVATION’ overleaf helps us do this.

It is common for people to have hardened hearts. Hardening happens over time as we suppress God’s prompts, either wilfully or through ignorance. With each suppressed prompt we further callous our heart until we can no longer hear God drawing us. Ways we suppress those prompts include resisting Him to do our own thing, engaging with the supernatural via wrong ways and believing various lies. Maybe you’ve believed one of these three common lies:

I’m too bad to be forgiven! I’ve done so much wrong. I’ve failed so many times. How can God love a person like me? There is no forgiveness for me. **TRUTH:** No one is unforgivable. Jesus died for **EVERYONE**, including you!

I’m good enough that I don’t need a saviour. I try not to break the 10 commandments. **TRUTH:** No one is perfect or able to stand before God guilt-free on Judgement Day.

This is not the time. Put it off. **TRUTH:** It’s time when you feel like *“this guide is speaking directly to me.”*

I urge you! Seek God. You need a softened heart to receive His forgiveness. Your eternal destination depends on it.

SO LET’S SOFTEN YOUR HEART

However, you can’t do this yourself. Only God can. God softens your heart towards Him by waking you up. You suddenly realise *“I need to be forgiven. Things are not right between me and God.”* So, cry out for Him to wake you.

Below is an example of how you might pray, but use your own heartfelt words. I pray that God wakes you up right now. But, if it takes days or weeks keep praying in this manner until you get that realisation. Also, read the Bible and spend time with people who love Jesus. Don’t quit. God often brings along things unexpectedly to soften our heart.

Carry this guide in readiness for when your heart softens. Only move to the next step when it does. The instant you feel your heart soften, immediately do the instructions in that step. Don’t put them off! You may never hear God’s invitation again if you re-harden your heart to His voice.

EXAMPLE OF PRAYING TO SOFTEN YOUR HEART

Lord, I’ve hardened my heart. I feel nothing. I know I can’t be saved unless Your Spirit is drawing me. Please! Don’t listen to all the times I’ve said “Not today. Leave me alone.” Don’t listen to those prayers! Listen to this one:

*Wake me up! Break my resistant and hardened heart. Soften it and draw me strongly so I can hear and respond to Your knock on my heart! Please let me see You because I **REALLY** want to know You. Give me an encounter with Your love. I must have You in my life at all cost!*