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# A GUIDE TO PERSONAL COMMITMENT

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**emmanuel**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

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# 1

# SALVATION

Have you come to a place in your life that you know for certain you have eternal life and will go to heaven when you die?

Suppose you were standing before God right now and He asked you, Why should I let you into my heaven? "What would you say?"

## **GOD'S PURPOSE**

God loves us and has a purpose for our lives. The Bible states it this way: "For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). God's purpose is that we have eternal life.

- God gives eternal life as a gift (Rom. 6:23).
- We can live a full and meaningful life right now (John 10:10).
- We will spend eternity with Jesus in heaven (John 14:1-3).

## **OUR NEED**

As we search for meaning in life, we discover that our sinful nature keeps us from fulfilling God's purpose for our lives.

We are all sinners by nature and by choice. "For all have sinned and fall

We cannot save ourselves. "For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift—not from works, so that no one can boast" (Eph. 2:8-9).

We deserve death and hell. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

## **GOD'S PROVISION**

God is holy and just and must punish sin. Yet He loves us and provides forgiveness for our sin. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

- Jesus is God and became man (John 1:1,14).
- Jesus died for us on the cross (1 Pet. 3:18).
- Jesus was raised from the dead and is alive today (Rom. 4:25; 6:9-10).
- God, through His Holy Spirit, calls us to Himself (John 6:44).

## **OUR RESPONSE**

The only way Jesus can affect our lives is for us to receive Him. The Bible says, "But to all who did receive Him, He gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in His name" (John 1:12).

We must repent of our sin. "Therefore repent and turn back, that your sins may be wiped out" (Acts 3:19).

- Repentance is not just feeling sorry for our sin (Acts 26:20).
- Repentance is turning away from our sin and turning to God through Jesus (Acts 26:20).
- We must place our faith in Jesus. "For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift" (Eph. 2:8).
- Faith is not just believing facts about Jesus (Jas. 2:19).
- Faith is trusting in Jesus (Rom. 10:11).

We must surrender to Jesus as Lord. "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart one believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth one confesses, resulting in salvation" (Rom. 10:9-10).

- Surrendering to Jesus as Lord is not just saying we give our lives to Jesus (Matt. 7:21).
- Surrendering to Jesus as Lord is giving Jesus control of our lives.

## **MY COMMITMENT**

Giving Jesus control is something each person must do for himself or herself. No one else can make this decision for you. Jesus says, "Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and have dinner with him, and he with Me" (Rev. 3:20).

- Does what we have been discussing make sense to you?
- Is there any reason you would not be willing to receive God's gift of eternal life?
- Are you willing to turn from your sin, place your faith in Jesus, and give Him control of your life right now?

If you are willing to receive Jesus into your life now, you can invite Him in by prayer. You may use the following prayer or a similar one using your own words:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God and died to forgive me of my sins. I know I have sinned. I ask You to forgive me. I turn from my sins, and I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank you for saving me. I want to live for You the rest of my life. Amen."

# 2

# BAPTISM

Have you been baptized by immersion since receiving Jesus as Lord and Savior?

Baptism is a response of obedience to Jesus Christ as Lord (Acts 2:38,41). Although baptism does not save, it demonstrates our recognition of the lordship of Jesus over every aspect of our lives. "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:19-20).

## **GOD'S PURPOSE**

- We declare our new life in Christ through baptism (Acts 2:41; 8:35-38; 16:25-34).
- We identify in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, as well as our own spiritual death, burial, and resurrection, are portrayed in baptism (Rom. 6:3-5).

## **OUR NEED**

- We need to confess Jesus publicly through baptism soon after we are saved (Matt. 10:32).
- We need to obey Jesus' command (Matt. 28:19).
- We need to follow Jesus' example (Matt. 3:13-15).

## **GOD'S PROVISION**

- Jesus began His public ministry with baptism (Mark 1:9-11).
- Jesus demonstrated that immersion in water (being placed underwater) is the proper way to be baptized (Mark 1:10).
- Jesus has given authority to His followers to baptize (Matt. 28:19).

## **OUR RESPONSE**

- Request a local church to baptize you.
- Be baptized as an expression of obedience to Jesus (Acts 2:41).
- Influence others through your baptism (Acts 16:31-33).

## **MY COMMITMENT**

The Bible calls new Christians "babes in Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:1). Without certain essentials, babies will not develop normally.

The church is to a new Christian what the home and family are to a baby.

You identify with your new family by confessing Jesus publicly and by experiencing believer's baptism.

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Acts 2:41).

Attend church Sunday and share with the pastor that you want to be baptized and become a member of the church.

# 3

# Church Membership

Are you an active member of a local church? Where? Jesus built the church (Matt. 16:18), loves the church and gave Himself for the church (Eph. 5:25). The church is made up of God's people. To love Jesus is to love His church.

## GOD'S PURPOSE

We can be a part of God's work through the church. "in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another" (Rom. 12:5).

- As a part of the church, we can worship with other Christians (Heb. 10:25; Eph. 5:19-20).
- As a part of the church, we can evangelize, that is, share our faith (Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:18-20).
- As a part of the church, we can grow to become the kind of people God wants us to be (2 Pet. 3:18).
- As a part of the church, we can minister to one another (1 Cor. 12:12-26).
- As a part of the church, we can fellowship with one another (Heb. 10:24-25).

## OUR NEED

- We need to identify publicly with the family of God (Acts 2:41-42).
- We need strength for daily living, which comes through fellowship with other Christians (Heb. 3:13).
- We need to express our personal talents and spiritual gifts in service through the church (Rom. 12:4-8).

## **GOD'S PROVISION**

- God established the church as the body of Christ (Eph. 4:4; Cot. 1:18).
- God provides for church membership through the invitation of the local church (Rev. 22:17).
- God encourages every Christian to participate in church membership (Heb. 10:25).
- Jesus set the example for faithful worship attendance (Luke 4:16).

## **OUR RESPONSE**

- You may become a member of the local church fellowship by professing your faith and baptism (Acts 2:41,47).
- You may share the fellowship of the local church by joining its membership.
- After joining a church you will want to serve with others.
- You may join a church by statement that you have been baptized in a local church of like beliefs and practices.

## **MY COMMITMENT**

If you are ready to make the commitment to join the fellowship of the local church, you may do so by expressing your intention on the attached commitment card. Seal your commitment in a prayer similar to the following:

“Dear Lord, thank You for the church, and particularly for this local church. Help me to be a faithful church member and support my church family.”

# 4

# Assurance of Salvation

Do you doubt your salvation?

## **GOD'S PURPOSE**

- God wants us to know we have eternal life. The Bible says, "The one who has the Son has life. The one who doesn't have the Son of God does not have life. I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:12-13).
- God wants us to experience the joy of salvation (John 15:10-11).

## **OUR NEED**

- Doubts are not uncommon to Christians. Satan wants us to doubt. He may plant doubts in our minds (Gen. 3:1), Even the biblical writers experienced doubts and expressed the need for renewal (Ps. 51:12). There are five major factors which cause believers to doubt:
- You may not have received adequate explanation when you first believed.
- You may have neglected prayer, Bible study, worship and service.
- You may have allowed sin, disobedience, or a failure to share your faith to cloud your relationship with Jesus.

## **GOD'S PROVISION**

- God has promised to complete His work of salvation in us (Phil. 1:6).
- Jesus promises assurance of eternal life: "I assure you: Anyone who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life" (John 5:24).
- Jesus said no one could take a believer out of His hand (John 10:28).
- The Holy Spirit tells us we are the children of God (Rom. 8:16).

## **OUR RESPONSE**

- We receive God's assurance by faith and express it through obedience (1 John 2:3-5). Christians are not to trust only their feelings. We walk by faith, not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7). Four actions can bring us to assurance:
- Confess all known sin. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).
- Commit yourself to the lordship of Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:9-10).
- Claim God's promise of salvation by faith. (2 Tim. 1:12).
- Obey God's commands (John 14:21; 15:10).

## **MY COMMITMENT**

Are you ready to take the four faith actions which bring assurance of salvation? If so, you may want to pray the following or a similar prayer now:

"Father, I place my complete faith in You: I confess to you any sin (you may want to name known sins); I commit myself to the lordship of Jesus. I claim Your promise of assurance; and I will live in obedience to your commands. Thank you for the assurance of my salvation."

# 5

## Rededication to Grow Toward Spiritual Maturity

You may feel you are not as close to Jesus as you once were, or you may realize you are not growing spiritually.

### **GOD'S PURPOSE**

- Jesus should be Lord of all your life (Luke 6:46).
- God wants your life to be useful and joyful (John 15:10-11).
- God wants you to live in fellowship with Him (1 John 1:7).
- God commands us to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18).
- God wants us to use our gifts for ministry (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- When you fail in your walk with Him, God wants to forgive you and restore you to a useful life with Him (1 John 1:9).

### **OUR NEED**

- Personal sin will hinder our fellowship with God (Isa. 59:2).
- Living in the world will hinder our spiritual growth without a commitment to spiritual maturity (Rom 12:1-2).
- Confess and forsake all known sin (1 John 1:9).

## **GOD'S PROVISION**

God offers six major tools for transformation and spiritual growth.

- God uses Scripture to set apart believers for His purposes (John 17:17).
- Spiritual disciplines, such as prayer, Bible study, worship, fasting, witnessing, and serving help us to grow (1 Tim. 4:7).
- Family and home influences may encourage us toward spiritual growth (2 Tim. 1:5).
- The church, as the body of Christ, encourages all to reach unity in their faith and knowledge of Jesus (Eph. 4:12-13).
- God works in all circumstances of life to bring us to Christlikeness (Rom. 8:28-29).
- God disciplines His children to transform us into the likeness of Jesus (Heb. 12:10).

## **OUR RESPONSE**

- Confess any known sin (Prov. 28:13).

“Heavenly Father, I want to be like Jesus. I commit myself to you and ask you to work in my life to develop the fruit of the

# 6

# COMMITMENT To Vocational

What do you think God wants you to do with your life? God wants you to know His will (Eph. 5:17), and He will help you discover it (Rom. 12:2).

## GOD'S PURPOSE

- Every Christian is called to ministry, that is, to Christian service (Eph. 4:1).
- God reaches out through His people to the world (2 Cor. 5:20).
- God gives us spiritual gifts to minister to others (Rom. 12:6, 1 Pet. 4:10).
- God gives leaders to the church to equip its people for ministry: "And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:11-12).

## OUR NEED

- We need to be laborers in the fields that are ready for harvest (Luke 10:2).
- We need to sense an urgency of sharing the gospel because so many in the world are lost and headed for eternity in hell (Matt. 7:13).
- We need to obey the will of God as He reveals it. "For it is God who is working in you, [enabling you] both to will and to act for His good purpose" (Phil. 2:13).
- We need to equip others for service (2 Tim. 2:2).

## **GOD'S PROVISION**

- It is God who calls you to Christian service (1 Sam. 3:8-9; Acts 9:1-20).
- God will equip you for the ministry He gives you (Phil. 2:13).
- God promises to be with you (Ex. 4:12; Josh. 1:9).
- The Holy Spirit will empower you (Acts 1:8; Phil. 4:13).

## **OUR RESPONSE**

- Discover God's will for service by complete surrender to Jesus as Lord (Rom. 12:1-2).
- Commit yourself to doing what God directs you to do (Luke 5:5; 9:23).
- Trust God for guidance. "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; think about Him in all your ways, and He will guide you on the right paths" (Prov. 3:5-6).

## **MY COMMITMENT**

Are you willing to do God's will? If you are, He will reveal His will to you, a step at a time. Will you respond to each step as God reveals it and trust Him for the next steps? Your first step is to serve faithfully where you are (Matt. 25:21; 1 Cor. 4:2).

If you are willing to commit yourself to following God's will for all of your life, you may want to pray the following or a similar prayer:

"Dear Lord, thank You for providing a perfect plan for my life. I am committed to obeying Your will as You reveal it to me."



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