

# The Bible And Becoming A Christian

**I**n the following 10 studies we will show you some important foundations to establish you in your new Christian life. First we will look at understanding the Bible.

## The Bible

The Bible is not like a book that you pick up and read from beginning to end. It is made up of 66 separate books - e.g. Book of Genesis, Book of Psalms, Gospel of John etc. These books were written by approximately 44 different people, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, over a period of nearly 2000 years.

The Bible is divided into the Old Testament (or Old Covenant), and the New Testament (or New Covenant). The Old Testament was originally written in the Hebrew and Aramaic language, and the New Testament in Greek. The modern day English translations come from these original writings.

There are several different versions of the Bible available, which are easy to understand. Some good versions to use are –

- King James Version
- Revised Standard Version
- New American Bible
- Good News Bible
- New International Version – we will use this as the basis for our studies.

## How Bible References are Written

To help find specific parts of the Bible, translators have divided each book into chapters and verses. This is to help us find our way around the Bible.

Bible references are usually abbreviated like this –

- JN 3:16 means, “the Gospel of John, chapter 3, verse 16”.
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## Old Testament Books

Genesis	GE	Song of Solomon	SS
Exodus	EX	Isaiah	ISA
Leviticus	LEV	Jeremiah	JER
Numbers	NU	Lamentations	LA
Deuteronomy	DT	Ezekiel	EZE
Joshua	JOS	Daniel	DA
Judges	JDG	Hosea	HOS
Ruth	RU	Joel	JOEL
1 Samuel	1 SA	Amos	AM
2 Samuel	2 SA	Obadiah	OB
1 Kings	1 KI	Jonah	JNH
2 Kings	2 KI	Micah	MIC
1 Chronicles	1 CH	Nahum	NA
2 Chronicles	2 CH	Habakkuk	HAB
Ezra	EZR	Zephaniah	ZEP
Nehemiah	NE	Haggai	HAG
Esther	EST	Zechariah	ZEC
Job	JOB	Malachi	MAL
Psalms	PS		
Proverbs	PR		
Ecclesiastes	ECC		

## New Testament Books

Matthew	MT	1 Peter	1 PE
Mark	MK	2 Peter	2 PE
Luke	LK	1 John	1 JN
John	JN	2 John	2 JN
Acts	AC	3 John	3 JN
Romans	RO	Jude	JUDE
1 Corinthians	1 CO	Revelation	REV
2 Corinthians	2 CO		
Galatians	GAL		
Ephesians	EPH		
Philippians	PHP		
Colossians	COL		
1 Thessalonians	1TH		
2 Thessalonians	2TH		
1 Timothy	1 TI		
2 Timothy	2 TI		
Titus	TIT		
Philemon	PHM		
Hebrews	HEB		
James	JAS		

## Questions

As a Christian, your Bible will become an important possession of yours. It is one of the main ways God speaks to us, and teaches us.

In these following Bible references, write down in your own words why the Bible (also called the Word of God, Scripture etc) is so important to Christians.

### **2 TIM 3:16**

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### **HEB 4:12**

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### **PS 119:105**

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### **MT 4:4**

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## Why God Gave Us the Bible

JN 20:31 “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name”.

## Becoming a Christian

Many people think that going to a church, being a member of a church, praying, reading the Bible, or living a good life makes them a Christian – this could not be further from the truth. When you become a Christian, you will start to do these things, but these activities do not make you a Christian. The Bible uses different terms to describe becoming a Christian - ‘to be saved’, ‘to be born again’, ‘to be converted’, ‘to be reconciled to God’, etc.

## How to Become a Christian

1. You need to ACKNOWLEDGE before God that you are a sinner, and REPENT (change your way of life). Read ROM 3:23, AC 3:19.

Write out 1 JN 1:9

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2. Next, you need to BELIEVE that Christ died in your place, that He rose from the dead to save you from eternal death, and to give you a new life. Read 2 COR 5:17.

Write out 1 PT 3:18

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3. You need to RECEIVE God's free offer of eternal life and ACCEPT Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. Read 1 JN 5:11&12.

Write out JN 1:12

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4. Write out MT 16:24

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5. Finally, you need to CONFESS Jesus as your Lord. Read MT 10:32.

Write out ROM 10:9

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## Salvation Prayer

Lord Jesus, I open my heart completely to You today. I ask You to forgive me for all of my sin; the things that I have done that have offended You and offended others. Lord Jesus, I yield my whole life completely over to You.