



Alive in Christ

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Item #

You're Alive Now
with the Book of Hope

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YOU'RE ALIVE

Congratulations!

You made one of the most important decisions of your life when you decided to begin a relationship with Jesus Christ. This is the beginning of a lifelong journey, as you walk with God to the great destiny He has planned for you.

God is now your partner in life. He has big plans for you. In the Bible, God says:

“I will bless you with a future filled with hope—a future of success, not of suffering” (Jeremiah 29:11).

God wants to partner with you to see that future He has planned for you become reality. You've taken the first step toward God's future for you, but what happens now? Now that you are a Christian—what does that mean? How has your life really changed?

When you gave your life to Christ, accepting Him as your Savior, maybe you felt something but can't explain what you felt. Or maybe you aren't really sure if you felt anything at all, and you are wondering if you got the “real thing.”

Alive in Christ is a tool that you can use to help answer those questions. It's designed to help you get off to a good start in your journey with Christ. As you go through these pages, you'll find Bible verses that will help you understand what God is doing in your life, and you'll learn about some steps you can take to make your new relationship with Christ stronger.

You can work through this material at your own pace. When you have questions, find a youth leader or a Christian friend who can talk with you about what you are reading. Questions aren't bad; they'll help your relationship with Christ grow stronger.



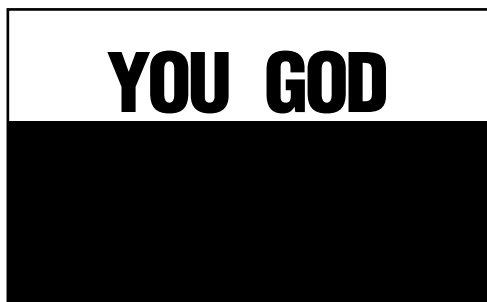
YOU'RE ALIVE NOW

God is pleased that you have surrendered your life to Christ. One of the reasons that God created you is so that He could know you. God wants to be involved in your life.

Jesus says:

“A thief comes only to rob, kill, and destroy. I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest” (John 10:10).

God’s plan is for you to have the best life possible. He wants you to be close to Him.



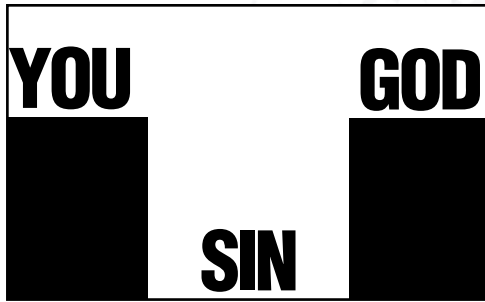
What was it that caused you to decide to give Christ control of your life? Perhaps you were going through a difficult time. Maybe you felt empty inside and you heard that God could help fill the void in your life. It’s important for you to remember the reasons you made this decision.

Why did you give your life to Jesus and want to live like Him?

People accept Christ for all kinds of different reasons. Whatever your reason, before you knew Christ sin was a problem that kept you from experiencing God in your life.

Sins are things in our lives that do not meet God’s standard. Sin can be things we do, like lying or cheating or stealing. Sin can also be in what we think, like lust or pride or jealousy, or in what we say.





“All of us have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory” (Romans 3:23).

Everyone has sinned—everyone at your school, everyone at your church (even your pastor). Those sins keep us from having a relationship with God.

What sins kept you from knowing God? List some of the actions or attitudes in your life that kept you at a distance from God.

“Sin pays off with death. But God’s gift is eternal life given by Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

The consequence of sin is death. Sin places us outside of God’s destiny for us because it separates us from Him. Genesis 3 explains how sin came into the world and how humanity first found itself separated from the love of God.

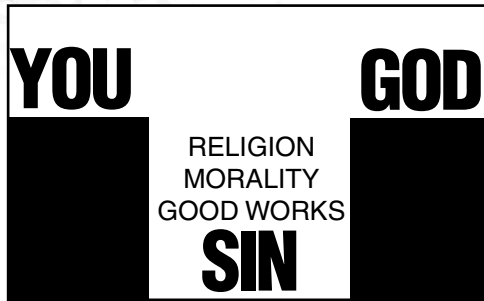
But God had a plan to deal with sin and bring us back to Him.

“God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die” (John 3:16).

“But God showed how much he loved us by having Christ die for us, even though we were sinful” (Romans 5:8).

God sent Jesus Christ to take the penalty for our sins. Jesus died on the cross so that we don’t have to! He took our punishment so that everyone who believes in Him can get a fresh start with God. Jesus became the bridge that connects us to God.





Why did God send Jesus Christ? How did Jesus prove that God loves us?

This salvation from sin is a gift that God offers to anyone who believes. You can do nothing through your own efforts to earn it; you can't just be a good person and earn salvation, because even good people sin. Having faith in Jesus Christ is the only solution for sin.

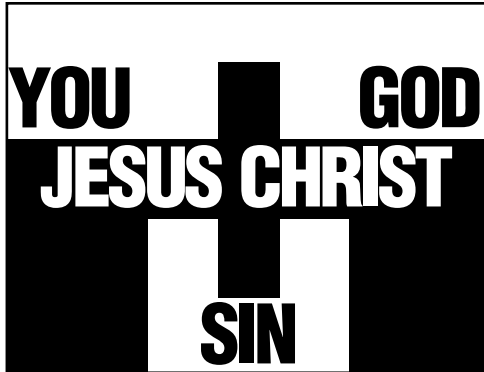
“So you will be saved, if you honestly say, “Jesus is Lord,” and if you believe with all your heart that God raised him from death. God will accept you and save you, if you truly believe this and tell it to others. . . . All who call out to the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:9,10,13).

“But if we confess our sins to God, he can always be trusted to forgive us and take our sins away” (1 John 1:9).

According to these verses, what should people do to become right with God and have their sins taken away?

When we confess our sins to Jesus Christ and accept Him as our Savior and Lord, we are saved. When people pray for salvation, sometimes they experience feelings of relief, feelings of joy, or the feeling of a burden being lifted from their shoulders. But sometimes people don't experience any feeling at that moment. Your salvation isn't based on how you feel; it is based on the promise of God.

Have you taken this important step? Have you prayed to ask God to forgive you of your sins, and have you confessed that Jesus Christ is Lord?



If you haven't, would you like to? If so, say the following prayer:

"Heavenly Father, I know I have failed You many times and done things wrong. I am truly sorry. I know that these sins mean I deserve death, but I also know that Jesus' death on the cross has paid the penalty for my sins. I accept Jesus as my Savior and confess Him as my Lord. I know that I am now a part of Your family. Help me to live for You the rest of my life."

Does this prayer express what you truly feel now? If you've prayed this prayer and meant it, then God has wiped out all record of your sins. The Bible tells us that He does not remember anything you have ever done wrong. You have a totally new start.

Now that God has given you a fresh start, what are some things you've been doing that you feel you should stop doing?

Can you think of some things you ought to start doing now since you have a new relationship with Christ?

The Spirit of God has moved into your life. Before, your sins had separated you from God and caused spiritual death. But now, God has taken away your sins and restored your spirit to life.

“In the past you were dead because you sinned and fought against God. . . . But God was merciful! We were dead because of our sins, but God loved us so much that he made us alive with Christ” (Ephesians 2:1,4,5).

Now that you’re alive with Christ, God has already started making changes in your heart.

THE BRAND-NEW YOU

God is already at work inside you, starting the process of making you more like Him. The moment that you made the decision to be a follower of Christ, God’s Holy Spirit cleaned out your heart and transformed you into a new person.

“Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

In John 3, Jesus says this process is like being born—not a physical birth, but a spiritual one. That’s where the phrase “born again” comes from. When we accept Christ as Savior, we get a fresh start in life just as a baby has a new start when first born.

Like a baby is new, we become new inside through the power of God.

What is the requirement for being made new? How is salvation like being born again?

Since you’ve been made new, then it is important to get rid of some of the old habits and attitudes that hurt your relationship with God. Those old sins are no longer necessary in your new life.

“You have given up your old way of life with its habits. Each of you is now a new person. You are becoming more and more like your Creator, and you will understand him better” (Colossians 3:9,10).

As you break old habits and start to form new ones, be careful who you allow to influence you. Habits can be hard to break, and it is important not to let your friends who were part of the “old self” convince you to go along with the things you used to do.

“Don’t be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to him” (Romans 12:2).

What is the “pattern of this world”? What are some patterns or habits in your world (good or bad)?

In the chart below, list three habits or attitudes that belonged to the old you, and list three habits or attitudes you can replace them with in the new you.

THE OLD ME	THE NEW ME
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____

List three people you know who have some good habits that you could learn from:

Changing old habits might be difficult, but God has promised that He will help you as you make the effort. When you committed your life to Christ, you received God’s gift of salvation.

But living as a Christ follower is a process that will cause change in your life.



This process, called discipleship, costs us everything; we give everything in our lives to God and put Him in charge.

Another change that God has made in your life is that you now are destined to go to heaven. God's guarantee is that anyone who has a relationship with Him will have eternal life with Him. Jesus said:

“There are many rooms in my Father’s house. I wouldn’t tell you this, unless it was true. I am going there to prepare a place for each of you. 3After I have done this, I will come back and take you with me. Then we will be together” (John 14:2,3).

Heaven will be how God originally created the world to be, before sin came and separated humanity from God. There will be no suffering, no death, no war, and no pain. God will be the King.

“He will wipe all tears from their eyes, and there will be no more death, suffering, crying, or pain. These things of the past are gone forever” (Revelation 21:4).

How can we be certain that God will take us to heaven?

What are some images of heaven presented by music, movies, or television? How do you think the Bible’s truth about heaven is different from them?

Now that you’ve accepted Christ and have been made new, you are part of a new family. God has chosen you, and you have chosen Him, and so you have been adopted into His family. He is your Father, and you are His child.

“Yet some people accepted him and put their faith in him. So he gave them the right to be the children of God.” (John 1:12).

“God’s Spirit makes us sure that we are his children” (Romans 8:16).

“All of you are God’s children because of your faith in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:26).

What are the qualifications for becoming a child of God?

How can we know for certain that we are God’s children?

Because you are now a child of God, you are in a family that has members, also children of God, all over the world. We are all connected with each other by our love for God and our faith in Jesus Christ.

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28).

This means that we need to treat others, especially other Christians, as though we belong together. We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. If one person in the family is struggling, then we all ought to work together to help that person. If a person in the family is celebrating over something, then we can all celebrate together.

“We should help people whenever we can, especially if they are followers of the Lord” (Galatians 6:10).

Why is it important to treat other Christians well?

As you continue your journey with Christ, here are five activities that you can begin turning into habits immediately; they will help your relationship with Jesus to become stronger. These five activities are:



- **Pray Regularly**—spend time each day talking with God.
- **Live the Word**—read the Bible regularly and then practice doing what it says.
- **Tell the Story**—talk to others about the experience you have had with God.
- **Serve People**—find ways to show Jesus’ love to others through actions.
- **Give Graciously**—support God’s work at your church and around the world through giving.

Here are two suggestions to help you continue your journey with Christ:

- Read the Book of Hope that starts on page 25.
- Get the complete Alive in Christ book and read it. The person who gave you this book might be able to get one for you or you can order one by contacting Gospel Publishing House by phone: 1-800-641-4310. Or order online at www.GospelPublishing.com. Ask for item number ??????.

