

Check this out: "This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. . . . All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:22-24).

If you've never asked Christ to forgive your sins, and if you've never given your life to him, you're not a Christian. Being good and going to church doesn't make you a Christian. Wanna pray right now?

Dear Jesus,

I realize I was born a sinner. I'm sorry for my sinful life, Father. I've been selfish, and I've done things that have made you sad. Will you forgive me? Will you come into my life and make me a brand-new person in your name?

I want to live for you, Jesus. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead and are preparing a place for me right now in heaven to live forever with you after I die. I also believe that the Bible is your Holy Word. I believe it is absolute Truth.

Thank you so much for granting me forgiveness for my sins. Jesus, I don't deserve this

kind of supernatural love, but I sure am grateful for it. Help me to read the Bible and grow closer to you. I'm placing you in charge of my life, and I will live in obedience to you.  
Amen.

Guess what! If you prayed that prayer and meant it, you're a Christian. The Bible tells us that when someone becomes a Christian, all of heaven rejoices! So right now there's a party going on in heaven because of your commitment to Jesus Christ. Cool, huh?

But this is just the beginning. That prayer isn't an automatic ticket to heaven. That prayer is the beginning of a beautiful relationship God wants to establish with you. And a relationship takes action. You wouldn't be able to keep up a friendship with your best friend if you never talked to her or spent any time together, would you? Well, it works the same way with God. Read your Bible. Pray. Get to know him. He wants to be your very best Friend.

If you don't attend church, find one. Get involved in a Bible study and a youth group. This will help you grow stronger spiritually. You might want to ask your pastor about baptizing you. This is a wonderful way to tell others about your commitment to Jesus.

Q. I love God, and I'm a Christian. But I think church is really boring! Does this mean I'm a bad Christian?