A TRINFINITY MINI BOOK

Starting Out with Christ

First steps into a new life with God

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About this book

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Introduction

Sooner or later most people ask why they are here and whether life has any real purpose. Some have an answer early. Others search for years. I want to start with that question, because the Bible answers it, and the answer leads straight to Jesus Christ.

This book is for someone who is just beginning, or who has been close to the door for a long time without walking through it. I want to keep it simple and honest. God made us, sin separated us from Him, Christ made a way back, and He invites us to come and follow Him.

1 Why I am here

Everyone who is called by My name, And whom I have created for My glory, Whom I have formed, even whom I have made.

Isaiah 43:7 (NASB)

Isaiah 43:7 (NASB) says God created His people for His glory. That means my life is not an accident. I was made by Someone, and I was made for Someone. Life on this earth is far too detailed and well ordered to be the product of chance.

God made me so that He could love me. First John 4:19 (NASB) says we love because He first loved us. God also made me so that I could love Him in return. When Jesus was asked for the greatest commandment, He answered that we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:36-38, NASB).

Jesus also said He came so that we may have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10, NASB). That is not a promise of an easy life or a rich one. It is a promise of a full life, one lived with God instead of apart from Him. Real happiness starts when I find the purpose I was made for.

2 The problem of sin

If God made us for Himself, why does He feel so far away? The Bible's answer is sin. Sin is anything that goes against who God is and what He has said. It can be as small as a white lie or as large as taking a life, but it always puts me at the center instead of God.

Romans 3:23 (NASB) says all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. That includes me, and it includes you. Adam and Eve sinned first, and every person since has followed the same pattern. Sin has broken the relationship between God and people.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23 (NASB)

Romans 6:23 (NASB) is honest about where sin leads. The payment is death, which includes being separated from God forever. I cannot fix that by trying harder or doing enough good things to balance the scale. That is the bad news, and it is important to hear it plainly, because it makes the good news make sense.

3 What God has done

The same verse that tells me the wages of sin also tells me about a gift. God did not wait for me to clean up my life. Romans 5:8 (NASB) says God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Jesus Christ is God's eternal Son. He became a man, lived without sin, and died on the cross in my place. He was buried, and He was raised on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3-4, NASB). He took what I had coming so that I could be brought back to God.

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB)

Grace is God's undeserved kindness. It is His favor reaching toward people who could never earn it. Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB) makes it clear that salvation is a gift received by faith. No church, no good deed, and no amount of effort can buy it. God does the saving.

4 Saying yes to Christ

So what do I do with this? First, I admit that I am a sinner and that I cannot save myself. Second, I believe that Jesus died for my sins and that God raised Him from the dead. Third, I turn from my sin and receive Him as my Savior and Lord. Receiving Him as Savior means trusting that He paid for my sins. Receiving Him as Lord means letting Him direct my life.

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

Romans 10:9 (NASB)

It helps to tell God plainly what is in your heart. A simple prayer might sound like this: Lord, I know I have sinned, and I am sorry. I believe Jesus died for me and rose again. I receive Him now as my Savior and my Lord. Thank You for forgiving me and making me Your child.

If you have prayed that and meant it, you can take God at His word. John 1:12 (NASB) says that as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.

5 The first steps after

Second Corinthians 5:17 (NASB) says that if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature. That does not mean every habit disappears overnight. It means a new life has started, and it needs to be fed.

A few things help that new life grow. Talk to God every day in prayer. Read the Bible every day and let it shape what you believe. Find a Bible believing church where you can learn and worship with other believers. Be baptized as a public way of saying that you belong to Jesus. And tell someone what Christ has done for you.

New believers also need people who will walk with them. Accountability means giving an honest account of my life to a mature believer I trust. Proverbs 27:17 (NASB) says iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

You do not have to turn your back on old friends. They may be the very people who need to see what Jesus can do in a life. Jesus said everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin (John 8:34, NASB). God is not trying to take the joy out of life. He is setting you free to find it.

Starting Out with Christ

Why am I here, and does my life have a purpose? This book answers that question from the Bible. It looks at what sin has done, what God has done about it through Jesus Christ, how to say yes to Him, and the first steps to take after you do.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23 (NASB)

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