

BECOMING A Christian

God created the world and made us to be in loving relationship with him. Though created good, human nature became fatally flawed, and we are now all out of step with God. In Bible language, we are sinners, guilty before God and separated from him.

The good news of the Gospel is that God the Father sent his eternal Son into this world to reconcile us to himself, to free us to love and serve him, and to prepare us to share his glory in the life to come.

Jesus enables us by his Holy Spirit to turn wholeheartedly from our sinful and self-centred ways (repentance), and to entrust ourselves to him to live in union and communion with him (faith). In spiritual terms, sin is the way of death, and fellowship with Christ is the way of life.

Turning to Christ brings us into fellowship with God. Baptism, which is the rite of entry into the Church's fellowship, marks the beginning of this new life in Christ. The apostle Peter, proclaiming the Gospel, said, "Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).



Through faith, repentance, and Baptism we are spiritually united to Jesus and become children of God the Father. Jesus said: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (*John 14:6*). As we come to the Father through Jesus Christ, God the Holy Spirit enlightens our minds and hearts to know him, and we are born again spiritually to new life. To continue to live faithfully as Christians, we must rely upon the power and gifts which the Holy Spirit gives to God's people.

A clear way to make this commitment of faith and repentance is to offer to God a prayer in which you

- confess your sins to God, being as specific as possible, and repent by turning from them;
- thank God for his mercy and forgiveness given to you in Jesus Christ;
- promise to follow and obey Jesus as your Lord;
- ask the Holy Spirit to help you be faithful to Jesus as you grow into spiritual maturity.

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One example of such a prayer is the following:

Almighty Father, I confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions (especially _____). I am truly sorry and humbly repent. Thank you for forgiving my sins through the death of your Son, Jesus. I turn to you and give you my life. Fill and strengthen me with your Holy Spirit to love you, to follow Jesus as my Lord in the fellowship of his Church, and to become more like him each day. **Amen.**

If you have prayed this prayer and you would like to be a Christian, please contact one of our Cathedral staff (tel: 63376104, info@cathedral.org.sg). We also run the Alpha Course which is suited for those seeking to know more about the Christian faith.