

Lesson 1
A Great Decision
The Journey Out of Egypt

Here are the stages in the journey of the Israelites when they came out of Egypt by divisions under the leadership of Moses and Aaron – Numbers 33:1

You have just made a great decision! You may have attended a church service where you responded to a call to come to the altar and receive Christ, or you may have attended a home cell group meeting and met Christ there. Perhaps a friend prayed with you to receive Christ. However you came to this decision, it was the right one! The decision to follow Christ is the greatest and most life-changing decision that you will ever make.

The decision to follow Christ starts you on a journey that lasts a lifetime. But you have taken the first step, and from this point on, you're entering a new way of living and a new way of looking at things. You're leaving the past behind and you're moving toward a future bright with hope and promise.

Your journey is remarkably similar to another journey spoken of in the Bible: the journey of God's people from Egypt to the Promised Land. For many years, the people of Israel lived in Egypt, having gone there in a time of famine. As time passed, their numbers increased greatly, and the Egyptian rulers became concerned about their loyalty. Thus began a number of years of oppression for God's people in Egypt. Finally, God raised up a deliverer, Moses, who led the Israelites out of Egypt, free from the terrible oppression of Pharaoh.

This is a picture of what happened to you when you came to Christ. You left the "Egypt" of sin, oppression, and despair, and you began a journey to the Promised Land. You were delivered and set free from the grasp of sin. No longer were you a slave of "Pharaoh", but you became a beloved child of Go Most High. Just like the Israelites, you will walk through various stages in your journey, but you've already taken the most important step. Let's see what this first step, your decision to come to Christ means.

What does it all mean?

Do you understand where you stood before you decided to follow Christ and where you stand today after having made this decision? Things have now changed! God sees you differently, and you probably see God differently. Let's think about what has happened to you: "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8)

You were a sinner

Being a sinner means that you had failed to do what God required of you in order to be in right relationship with Him. In other words, you had failed to fulfill God's law, just like all of us: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Sin includes those things you do that are not acceptable to God, as well as your natural tendency to walk in disobedience to God.

As a sinner, you could not please God

“As it is written: `There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away; they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not one`” (Romans 3:10). Most of us live our lives without ever considering what God might expect from us. But you probably discovered that even when you tried to live right and please God, you couldn't. That's because without Christ it is impossible.

You see, you were dead in your sin!

Even though God loved you, you were separated from Him. Because God is totally good and perfect, He cannot allow sin in His presence. So until you met Christ, you were not able to enter into God's presence. But now, because of His shed blood, Christ has become your passage to the Father.

Ephesians 2:2 says that you formerly “followed the ways of this world.” In the past, you lived for the world and its attractions – under the direct influence of Satan. The spirit of rebellion controlled your life through strong desires of lust and greed. This spirit cannot and will not ever gain God's approval. So every person under this influence must come to Christ. That's where you were until you met Christ!

Because God loves you so much....

He still dealt with your heart through the influence of the Holy Spirit, no matter how hardhearted you became. Something probably happened to you that left you desperate, empty, and in need of God, and He was there to draw you to Himself by inviting you to know His Son, Jesus.

If you had refused God's love....

If you had refused to accept God's love and offer of eternal life through Jesus Christ, then you would have remained in your sin and continued to be separated from God. If you had died separated from God, you would have been condemned to an eternity without God in a place the Bible calls “hell.”

Ephesians 2:1-3 says, “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.”

What did it mean when you got saved?

Good question! We often see people performing religious duties with the hope of gaining God's approval. We have already discovered, however, that just doing good things cannot please God. By itself, the act of responding to the altar call after a sermon can't save you either.

If you didn't earn it, and the preacher didn't save you, what really happened?

Another great question! Let's look at God's clever answer: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is a gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8, 9). You were saved by grace – favor that God gave you. It was undeserved, unearned, and given freely. Grace came to you through faith, and by faith means being totally convinced that something is true. In this case, it means having the assurance that Christ paid for your sins.

When you firmly believed that it was through Christ alone that you could have salvation (not by anything you could do), you experienced "saving faith". Before you had this faith, you had no grace or favor with God. Ephesians 2:12 says, "Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ....without hope and without God in the world."

Because of your faith in Christ, you now have grace and are in God's favor! Now you can enter God's presence boldly, knowing that you have received mercy and forgiveness. God accepts you now through the work of Christ.

Now what is expected of you?

The Bible has a very good answer to that question. Ephesians 4:1-3 says, "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

With God's help through the power of the Holy Spirit, you are expected to "live a life worthy" of God's salvation, reflecting your new relationship with God. Your new life should be different from your old life. As you walk with Christ, you will learn humility, love, patience, and many other virtues and walking in unity with other Christians, you will continue to have confidence that you are a child of God.

Questions for you:

1. How did God see your life before your decision to receive Christ?
2. What did you do to become a Christian?
3. What one thing caused you to see your need for Christ?
4. How has your life changed since receiving Christ?
5. If you died right now, would you go to heaven? Why?

Submit your answers by [Clicking Here](#)