



Steps for *Following* God

Following God also means following His Son, Jesus Christ. The Bible calls Jesus' followers' disciples. Disciples are students or followers who learn, act, and think in accordance with their teacher's example. Not only does Jesus teach us how to live, He also empowers us to obey His holy instructions.

1. Rely on Jesus through God's Spirit

God is one unity with three distinct persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is a divine mystery beyond human understanding but revealed throughout the Bible. The third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, helps and empowers us to follow Jesus. We must rely on Him to lead us.

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Romans 5:5

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:13–14

2. Pray and read the Bible

God loves you and wants to be in fellowship with you continually. Prayer is simply communicating with God. We can communicate with God anywhere and anytime.

God's word, also known as the Bible, helps us relate to Him in our prayers. It teaches us His ways. As you read your Bible, ask and expect God to speak to you through it. The Bible teaches the truth of God's love and the wonderful plan He has for your life. That plan rests in the person of Jesus Christ.

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 1 John 5:14

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. John 17:17

Pray: Holy Spirit, thank you for helping me communicate with God, understand His word, and remind me of Jesus' teachings. Lead, guide, comfort, and empower me to follow Jesus in my Father's holy service. I pray for all my thoughts, words, and actions to glorify God. Amen.

3. Confess daily and receive forgiveness

Confess means to acknowledge and agree with God about our sin. God is forgiving and will purify us through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. We continue to sin because we were born with a sin nature. Plus, we have an enemy tempting us toward evil. The enemy is Satan (the devil), a fallen angel, who is leading other fallen angels (demons) against God and us.

Satan and his demons will attack new believers trying to get them to disobey God. They'll use a number of tactics to make it seem that following Jesus is too hard or not worth it. Be aware and keep praying. Cling to Jesus and He will see you through the battle.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8–9

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 1 Peter 5:8–9

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

4. Be baptized

Baptize is a Greek word that means to immerse, dip, or submerge. When believers are baptized in water it represents their belief in, and commitment to the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ for salvation. It's a public declaration of being a follower, a disciple of Christ.

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, 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

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. Acts 2:41

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:3–4

5. Attend and join with a church

A church is a body of believers who join together to worship and serve God. God is relational and desires His people to come together in learning, fellowship, encouragement, and correction.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42

We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 1 John 1:3

6. Share the good news with others

Tell or share with others how you came to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Some people may be believers and rejoice with you, others may accept Christ on your testimony; still others may become angry and abusive toward you. No matter the outcome, you have honored God by sharing what the Lord has done for you.

Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” Mark 5:19

“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.”
Matthew 10:32

7. Connect and unite with a discipleship team

A disciple is a born-again believer who submits, follows, and obeys Jesus. We are available to talk with you personally about getting a team of fellow Christians (disciples) together who love the Lord and want to follow in His steps more closely.

Jesus modeled the way for discipleship groups. Although He preached and worked miracles for all, He called individuals and formed them into a small team of followers. He calls us to do the same by becoming and reproducing disciples.

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:19–20

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24–25

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