

# ***Have You Lost Your Way?***

***'We find ourselves here without a map!'***

***'Seek and you will find.'***

***(Matthew 7:7)***

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To anyone who feels lost

## **Introduction**

*This is a complex life!*

We didn't choose to be born, to be alive, and yet here we are! From a young age we become aware of so much going on – parents who care, who don't care, who aren't there. Friends, frienemies, and enemies. Kindness. Jealousy. Safety. Danger. Loneliness. Power struggles. Status. Privilege. Differences.

We find ourselves here without a map! Where do we go? What way do we take? What is life's purpose? Where is it going?

In this short book I want to share with you a 'map' that God *has* given us. We don't have to be lost. We were made by God, and he has provided us with guidance for this life, and for all eternity. He did not leave us alone – even though it can feel like that sometimes.

First, let's consider the most important question of all: *Who is God?*

## 1. Who is God?

There is an amazing verse in the Bible that says:

***‘God made it so that people could not find him through their own wisdom.’***

(1 Corinthians 1:21)

In fact, just before this verse, it says that the world’s wisdom – when it comes to discovering God – is *‘foolishness’*.

So if we cannot ‘find’ God through our wisdom – our reasoning, our thinking - how *can* we find God? Well, the truth is we can’t! But God *can* ***‘reveal’*** himself to us. He *can* make himself known. And he has done this!

After God created the world and people, he began to reveal himself to people. He would appear to a chosen person – who we would call a ‘prophet’ – and this prophet would speak to the people the words of God. And little by little God made himself known – in words, in power, in miracles. And we have that record of God in the Bible.

Now, the most important thing that God ever did was to actually become a person. The prophets did say that this would happen, and then one day it did! Jesus was born. And his name meant, ***‘God with us.’***<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 7:14

Jesus was God in the flesh.<sup>1</sup> He did miracles and he cared for people and for children. He spoke words of life, things like: ***'If you are weary and tired, come to me and I will give you rest.'***<sup>2</sup>

Most importantly, Jesus had a plan – a deep, mysterious and powerful plan – to take away our guilt, our shame, and the stain of our wrongdoing.

All this rebellion and wickedness in our own hearts – *lying, gossiping, bad thoughts and words* – is called, 'sin'. Jesus came to take away our sin, and to forgive us. And then to offer us 'eternal life', a place in heaven after we die.

Jesus said that he would take our sin on himself – all our guilt and shame – and he would die with it. And after he died, he would rise again, but the sin would be gone forever. And he would forgive our sin, and offer us life forever. Our sin gone forever, and our names ***'written in heaven.'***<sup>3</sup>

***This is an incredible story of God, don't you think?***

This is 'God with us', and he will take your hand, and fill your heart with his Spirit. He will lead you in life. Yes, he will guide you. He made you, and he will give you a map.

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<sup>1</sup> John 1:1-5,14; Isaiah 9:6

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 11:28-30

<sup>3</sup> Luke 10:20

Are you ready for this new life with God, with Jesus? Let's talk about that *'first step'* we need to take...

## 2. First Step With Jesus

There are many 'steps' we take with Jesus throughout our life and on into eternity. But there is also that '*first step*'. This step is coming to know him.

Jesus said, ***'I am the door, and anyone who comes through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find new pastures.'***  
(John 10:9)

This is one of my favorite verses! It shows us the '*starting point*' with God, and also tells us that after we come to Jesus, we will have a new life with him – we will '*come in*' and '*go out*'. He will guide us forever.

***Do you want to go through this door that God has provided? Do you want to meet and know Jesus?***

Jesus made it very simple for us to take this step. He asked us to turn our back on 'sin' in our life. This is called 'repentance'. To repent of our sin, is to turn away from it. Turn our back on it. Is there sin in your life that you need to turn away from? Decide to do that now.

The second thing Jesus asked us to do was to believe in him. To truly believe. To believe he is God. To believe he died to take away our sin, and then rose again from the dead. To believe that he loves you, and is with you by his Spirit.

***Do you want to take this step of repentance and belief?***

Here below is a 'prayer' that you can pray right now. You can read this prayer and make it your own. Just really believe what you are praying, and it will be true in your life, in your Spirit. You will right now step through the door of Jesus Christ, and meet God.

***Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for loving me. Thank you for taking my sin away, and forgiving me. I want to know you, and live my life with you. I want you to guide me, and to write my name in heaven. I receive you into my heart, into my life, and I turn away from sin. Thank you, Jesus. Amen.***



### 3. My New Life!

***'The name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous [You!] run into it and they are safe!'***  
(Proverbs 18:10)

By the way, in the Bible, the '*righteous*' people are those who have trusted in God, and are following him. You have just done this! You are '*righteous*'!

So the first thing to know about your new life with God, with Jesus, is that he is with you always! You are safe!

The Bible teaches that you are '***hidden with Christ in God.***'<sup>1</sup> Isn't that a beautiful image of safety?

When you stepped through the door of Jesus, you entered a new space in God. A new reality. God is with you, and you are safe in his arms forever. Now, and forever.

Yes, in this life we will have troubles, and difficulty. It is as if we are on a journey through a dark world, but we know the ultimate destiny will be the new Kingdom of Heaven. So we journey – with Jesus – and every day we are closer to that Kingdom of Light!

So even though we have some troubles and

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<sup>1</sup> Colossians 3:3

sorrows in this broken world, we know the presence of Jesus with us, and that he is guiding us to heaven.

This thought – the thought of heaven – is a sweet way to fall asleep at night!

***'I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me live in safety.'***

(Psalm 4:8)

#### 4. Your True Identity

In the next section – called ‘*Guidance*’ - I will give you some simple steps you can take each day to grow in your relationship with Jesus, and to understand his guidance in your life.

But first it is important to understand your true identity in Jesus.

When you know Jesus...

1. You are a child of God
2. Jesus is with you ALWAYS
3. You are a ‘citizen’ of heaven (not this world!)
4. Other true followers of Jesus are your family
5. God is a good Father who loves you!

Let’s look at some verses from the Bible for these 5 points about your new identity in Jesus:

##### 1. YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD

***‘Everyone who received Jesus, who believed in him, he gave the right to become children of God.’*** (John 1:12)

##### 2. JESUS IS WITH YOU ALWAYS

***‘Jesus said, ‘I am with you always, forever and ever!’*** (Matthew 28:20)

### 3. YOU ARE A CITIZEN OF HEAVEN

***'Our citizenship is in heaven.'***

(Philippians 3:20)

### 4. OTHER TRUE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS ARE YOUR FAMILY

***'Turn away from sin and go after goodness, together with others who follow Jesus with a sincere heart.'*** (2 Timothy 2:22)

### 5. GOD IS A GOOD FATHER WHO LOVES YOU!

***'God is light. In him there is no darkness at all!'*** (1 John 1:5)

***'God says, 'I have loved you with an everlasting love.'*** (Jeremiah 31:3)

## 5. Guidance

*So how do I live my life now? What steps do I take?*

It takes time to grow in our understanding about God, and his guidance in our life. Like any new friendship or relationship, it takes time to get to know the person.

The most amazing resource we have to help us know God, and understand his guidance in our life, is the Bible. The Bible teaches us all about God's character and his ways.

Let me explain what exactly the Bible is!

The Bible is a collection of writings (*letters, stories, prayers...*), that are inspired by God. It is a collection of 66 writings, or what we call, '*books*'. So we say, there are 66 books in the Bible.

The Bible is how we know about God, and his truth. The Bible is how we learn about Jesus.

Here is what I recommend:

### 1. Buy a Bible:

Try to find a version that is 'good' and clear. If you go to a book store – or look online - I recommend the 'NIV' version.

'NIV' simply means, '*New International Version*'.  
Search for this: '*Bible NIV*'

## **2. Read 1 chapter a day:**

Start with the book of '*Matthew*'. Read one chapter a day, maybe 5 days a week if you can. Try to make this a special time of your day. Make a nice hot drink, or find a quiet corner where you like to sit and read.

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Reading the Bible and sitting quietly with Jesus, will be the key to your guidance in life! This will be your map!

You will begin to understand how Jesus lived, what he taught, and how *you* can follow him in your day-to-day life.

Jesus gives us his Holy Spirit. This Spirit of God now lives in you. So even when you close the Bible, Jesus goes with you by his Spirit. He will guide you by bringing thoughts to your mind, and reminding you of things you read in the Bible.

Jesus said the Holy Spirit would do this:

***'Jesus said, 'The Holy Spirit will teach you things, and will also remind you of things I have said.'*** (John 14:26)

So the first and most important thing you 'need' for your guidance in this life, is your daily time reading the Bible, and whispering your prayers and thoughts to your friend, Jesus.

***'Jesus said, 'I have called you my friend.'***

(John 15:15)

## 6. Church

When you believe in Jesus, you can call yourself a '*Christian*' – which means a follower of Jesus Christ.

Now, when some Christians live near to each other, they might meet up each week, usually on a Sunday, to worship Jesus and learn about him. This is what a local church is. It is simply a group of Christians that meet together, because they are all 'family' in Jesus.

If there is a good, Christian church near you, and you are free to go each week, that would be great! There you will meet with other 'brothers' and 'sisters' in the faith. It should be like a family experience!

Another great thing about a church is that you can 'serve' other people there. You can maybe volunteer to help with set up, with special events, with the youth group, or other things.

Remember, though, what Jesus cares about most in your life, is the time you spend with him. This is more important than being 'busy' working and serving in church. So make sure that you always continue your special, daily time with just Jesus, reading the Bible and praying.



## 7. **How do I be a Christian day-to-day?**

Maybe you are in school, or maybe you work a job. It can be a little lonely when we become a follower of Jesus. We sometimes feel a little left out.

When we follow Jesus it is not appropriate to do some things – or say some things – and this can be hard for us when we are around friends. What should we do when they are behaving like this?

When I started following Jesus I was a teenager in high school. And it was hard for me. As a new Christian I now wanted to live a way that was right, and not be involved in bad behavior and bad talk anymore.

One of the first things I did was stop swearing. Another thing I did was stop going places – people's houses and parties – where I knew people were not doing things that were right in God's eyes.

Very quickly, actually, I found myself quite lonely. I lost many of my friends because I would not do or say certain things anymore, or go certain places.

This was a hard time, but it was also a deep and special time for me. Although I was lonely when it came to people, I felt very close to God. This lasted a few months.

But then I made some friends from church. This changed everything for me. I really felt a lot of joy when this happened. These 'brothers' and 'sisters' who also followed Jesus, were loyal, kind, and most importantly, they also followed Jesus in their lives!

So, my friend, the way we follow Jesus each day, in a practical way, is step by step. If there is crude talk going on over here, walk away. If you know bad things will be going on over there, don't go. And try to connect with 'new' friends, who are actually 'family': other sincere Christians.

***'Turn away from sin and go after goodness, together with others who follow Jesus with a sincere heart.'*** (2 Timothy 2:22)

Again, remember to read your Bible and pray every day. Spend that special few minutes with just Jesus. Then ask Jesus to guide you that day, to help you. Whisper to Jesus that you need some new, Christian friends, and you need some support in work or in school.

Little by little, step by step, you will find yourself in a whole new world! Jesus will help you with this. Jesus will guide you, teach you truth, and give you deep and joyful life. Take those steps!

***'Jesus said, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.'*** (John 14:6)

So the next section is called, '*Conclusion*', but actually it is only the start of your new life! There is no 'conclusion' in following Jesus.

So please read the next section, work through it, and let's keep going and growing together as family!

## **Conclusion**

I would really like to encourage you at this point to consider doing this:

Go through this book again over the coming days, but don't just read it. Instead, do these 3 things:

### **1. Look up and write down verses:**

When you see a verse reference in the text or in the footnotes (for example, *Matthew 1:23*), look up the verse in a Bible (or online), and write it into this book. Write it large or small, whatever color you want. You can write it out on the page you see the reference, or you can use the notes pages at the end of this book.

### **2. Write your thoughts:**

When you finish reading a section, go to the back of this book, to the notes pages, write down the date and the section number, and write a few lines about your own thoughts on this section.

For example, if the section was about 'repentance', maybe you have some thoughts about things in your life that you will turn away from now? Or if the section was about God as your Father, maybe you have some thoughts about this, or some questions?

### 3. More Free Books!

You can download the 1Peter1:3 APP or visit the website. Here you can read this book and many others. This would be a great way to have some more teaching about Jesus right there on your phone or computer!

[www.1peter1three.weebly.com](http://www.1peter1three.weebly.com)



***Thank you so much for reading this book,  
and for your faith in Jesus!***

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