

Knowing Jesus as our saviour

The greatest thing that you can do is to know the lord Jesus Christ as your saviour and know that one day you will be in heaven with him for eternity

So why is this statement true?

Because God our heavenly father loves us and wants us to enjoy everlasting life with him in heaven

You may think how do I know that God loves us, well the bible tells us

John 3.16 for God so loved the world he gave his only begotten son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life
Romans 5.1 we have peace with God through our lord Jesus Christ

So what is stopping us from achieving this goal?

The problem for man is his separation from God
And what is it that separates man from God, SIN!

God has created man in his own image and also wants him to have abundant life. But God also gave us a will and a freedom of choice. Our problem is we chose to disobey God and go our own way and this then leads to our separation from God

Romans 3.23 says for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Man has tried to bridge this gap between himself and God through good works and failed

Proverbs 14.12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death

No human constructed bridge reaches God

But the good news is God has bridged the gap

God used the cross as the bridge between man and himself

Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave. He paid the penalty for our sin at Calvary and he and he alone has bridged the gap between God and his people.

Because of this we can know Jesus as our personal saviour and Lord

1 Peter 3.18 For Christ died for our sins once for all. The righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God

The righteous being Jesus, the unrighteous being us

God has provided the only way, it is up to each of us to make a choice
What must we do?

To know Christ we must trust Jesus as our Lord and Saviour and receive him into our lives by personal invitation. What does that mean? We ask him into our lives

Romans 10.9 that if you confess with your mouth. Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved

Where are you now? Have you received God? If not will you receive the Lord?
There is no time like the present

How can you receive the Lord?

Admit your need for salvation (you have sinned and through sinning disobeyed God)
Turn from sinful ways (Repent from your sinful way and turn to God, let God change your life)

Believe that Jesus died for you on the cross at Calvary and rose again (don't just believe with your head but also with your heart)

Invite Jesus into your life (put your belief into action, chose to trust Jesus with your life. That's called faith)

Romans 10.13 *everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved*

After taking that step, start reading God word. You don't have to read whole chapters or books of the bible, or try to commit lots of verses to memory. Learn to walk in the spirit before you run. Start with well known stories or verses. Get a daily devotional book that will take you through books of the Bible and give you explanations to make the story and meaning clearer

Never neglect prayer. Find the time to speak to God. There is always a situation that will you find yourself in that you will seek Gods help. School, work, even with family and friends when with peer pressure you may find yourself being asked to do something you know to be wrong

When you do pray, it isn't always the words that matter but the sincerity of your heart God is not looking for long cleverly worded prayers. He wants prayers that are honest and contrite when we are wrong. Prayers that are happy and thankful when we feel blessed by his hand

There is the story in Luke's gospel about the tax collector and the Pharisee. The Pharisee bragged about all that he gave in tithes and offerings and how righteous he was, that he was not like the tax collector. What did the tax collector do? The tax collector didn't lift his head but he asked God to be merciful to him a sinner. Who do you think approached God in the correct way?

In Luke's gospel, chapter 18 verse 14 Jesus says **"For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted"**

If you have given your life to the Lord, Jesus wants you to grow in that relationship. Now that you know the saviour, everyday is a chance to get to know him better

Read your Bible every day; here is where you will have a closer walk with God

Talk to God in prayer; just don't leave it until something worries you but more importantly to thank him for all his blessings both present and future

Get involved with a church or fellowship near you, here you can learn more about the Lord and enjoy fellowship with other Christians

Obey God in what his word says

And just like us here today, tell others what Jesus has done for you

Trust him with every detail of your lives. I would like to close with a final verse

Philippians 1 v 6 **And I am sure of this that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ**