

## Lesson Four

# Now What?

Basic Studies in the Good News of Jesus Christ

By Dr. Bill Denton

The simplest answer to salvation is that we must believe in Jesus Christ. The basic message of the gospel is BELIEVE!

Notice the emphasis in the following verses:

John 3:16 (NASB95)

16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

John 8:24 (NASB95)

24 "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins."

John 6:47–51 (NASB95)

47 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. 48 "I am the bread of life. 49 "Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 "This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51 "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread also which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh."

John 12:44–46 (NASB95)

44 And Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, does not believe in Me but in Him who sent Me. 45 "He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me. 46 "I have come *as* Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness.

John 20:30–31 (NASB95)

30 Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

1 John 5:13 (NASB95)

13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

We must begin here, for if a person does not believe that Jesus is the Son of God or if he does not believe that Jesus died to save him from his sins, then he cannot trust Jesus, and will not put himself into Jesus' hands to be saved.

The basic idea of the word *faith* is "believe." But that word carries the idea of trust and confidence. To believe in Jesus is not only to accept as true what the Bible says about him; it is also to trust Him to be our Savior, to depend on His death on the cross as a sacrifice for sin that fully cleanses us from our guilt and enables God to forgive us.

Early disciples and writers of the Bible put great emphasis on believing in Jesus. They knew that unless a person believed, he would never trust Jesus' death as an answer for the problem of sin, nor would he follow Jesus into a new way of living. If you do not believe in Jesus, you will have to find some other way to be forgiven. Do not miss the importance of this point.

You must decide what you believe about Jesus Christ. It is at this point of decision that a great many things happen. If a person does not believe in Jesus as God's Son or he does not believe that Jesus can or will save them, then it really doesn't matter what else the Bible might instruct that person to do. Belief is the foundation for our response to God's message.

Let's find out where you are in your effort to understand yourself and whether you are ready to become a Christian and be saved.

Do you believe that Jesus is God's Son? You can mentally check the correct answer or print out the study and circle your answer below.

Yes

No

Do you believe that Jesus died on the cross and that through His death God will forgive you of your sins?

Yes

No

If you checked "No" to either question, then you should follow one of these suggestions. First, sit down with a mentor, study partner, or minister and discuss exactly what is giving you a problem. Do not be afraid to express a difficulty in believing in Jesus. There may be some specific issue you'd like to talk about, or a question you have that deserves an answer. Mentors, study partners, ministers, elders, Bible teachers will all be happy to try to help. If none of these are available, email us at [billdenton@crosssties.org](mailto:billdenton@crosssties.org) and we'll try to help you.

You may be surprised to discover that a lot of people have struggled with the same questions that you have. Now is the time to get help. Though all Christians want you also to be a Christian, nobody wants you to have hard questions or doubts that go unanswered. Before you go any further in this study, if you have trouble believing in Jesus, be sure to stop and find someone with whom you can talk things out. We suggest mentors, ministers, study partners and others who love you and want to help you.

On the other hand, you may not have any trouble believing in Jesus. In fact, most of the time when people have attended Sunday School classes or frequently attended church assemblies, they already have a strong belief in Jesus.

For many people, the example of parents, grandparents, other family members, friends and neighbors has encouraged them to know Jesus as the Savior and to believe in Him with all their hearts. Many young children have quite a serious belief in Jesus that older people are surprised to discover.

So, if you answered "Yes" to the two questions posed earlier, then you're more than ready for the rest of the study.

Once a person believes, he is now ready to know about others who believed in Jesus and wanted to be saved. Rather than tell people to do things that are unrelated to the teachings of the Bible, we believe that it makes more sense for you to open your Bible and read what believers were told about faith and obedience and what the Bible writers said about being saved. You might discover that what the Bible actually says about salvation is different from what you have heard.

Since we also believe that the Bible is God's revealed word, then it makes sense to follow the Bible instead of just going by what is popular. If you really believe in Jesus, then you will be interested to know what he wants you to do.

Here is the question that sets up the rest of the study: If you believe that Jesus is God's Son, and if you believe He will save you from your sins, then will you respond to Him as He wants? In other words, will you commit right now to following His will?

Yes

No

If you checked "Yes," then continue the study. If you checked "No," sit down with your study partner, mentor, minister or other Bible teacher, and deal with this question first.

If you did check "Yes," then it's quiz time again! Go to the next page and answer the True / False questions

Thanks again for your interest in God's word. Hopefully, you are beginning to see that there is good news for sinners in the Bible.

*Now  
What?*

# Basic Bible Studies in the Gospel of Jesus Christ



## Basics

T F

1. The simplest answer to salvation is, "Believe."
2. John 3:16 says that God sent His Son because he loved us.
3. John 8:24 says that we will die in our sins unless we believe in Jesus.
4. John 12:44-46 says that believers remain in darkness.

## Faith

T F

5. The basic idea of the word "faith" is "believe".
6. Faith carries the idea of trust and confidence.
7. To believe in Jesus is to trust Him to save us.
8. Early disciples and Bible writers emphasized the importance of belief.

## Your Personal Answers

T F

9. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
10. I believe Jesus died on the cross to save me from my sins.
11. I am fully confident that Jesus can and will save me from my sins.
12. I commit to following the will of Jesus.

**Thank you for taking the time to fill out the quiz. You can score your own results by checking the correct answers on the next page.**

*Now  
What?*

# Basic Bible Studies in the Gospel of Jesus Christ



## Answer Key For Lesson 4

1. T
2. T
3. T
4. T
5. T
6. T
7. T
8. T
9. T
10. T
11. T
12. T