

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

Welcome to the family of God!



VICTORY
CHURCH
CRADOCK



What it means!

*We know it takes courage to admit we have failed in life,
yet we are proud of your choice to believe that
you can only be forgiven by accepting
the free gift of salvation that Jesus Christ offers you.*

Here's a recap of what you may have recently experienced.

Gift of Salvation

Salvation is acknowledging that only God can save you.

You accepting what Jesus did on the cross as a free gift of Grace from Him.

When you understand and receive this gift, you stand blameless before God.

This is a gift - offered to you by Jesus Christ, to bring you back into relationship with God, because your sin separated you from God.

*You are only saved by placing your faith in Jesus Christ.
That is by trusting and believing that Jesus Christ died -
for you – and paid your sin debt in full.*

*His death and resurrection gave mankind an
opportunity to be reconciled and reconnected to God.*

- No church can save you.
- No human can save you.
- Being brought up in a Christian home cannot save you.
- Being baptised as a baby cannot save you.
- Doing a course does not save you.
- Good works or being a good person cannot save you.
- Regret for your past mistakes does not save you.
- Remorse (feeling bad) for hurting people because of your behaviour and bad choices, does not save you.

The first step to salvation is to understand that you have sinned before a Holy God and to ask him to forgive you. If you have not already prayed like this - you can do it now.

PRAYER:

Father God, I recognise that I have been living for myself and that I fallen short of your holy standard.

I understand that the penalty for sin is eternal separation from you.

Lord Jesus,

I acknowledge that you are the Son of God, who died on cross, and shed your blood to redeem, rescue and save me.

I ask you to forgive my sin against you, Father God. I confess all my sins and ask you to forgive me. I repent by changing the way I think and the way I live, so that I will live for you.

I confess that with my mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord, and I believe in my heart that God raised him from the dead to give me new life. I long to receive your forgiveness and I open my life to you and receive you as my Lord and my Saviour.

I ask you to take over control of my life and I now live for you. Thank you for saving me.

In your precious name I pray. Amen

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

- Romans 10:9

You are now Forgiven

The first thing God did when you made Jesus Christ your Savior was to erase all your sin from your past and wipe your record clean.

What was wiped away?

Your Sin -- your disobedience to God.

Sin separated you from him.

Everything you have ever done against God has been erased!

All your failures have been forgiven!

When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the penalty for all your sins -- both past and future.

God doesn't want you to sin anymore, He wants you to live a holy life, so He puts His Holy Spirit into you, to give you the desire and the ability to overcome sin.

When you “fall short of the mark” (sin), you admit to God what you did wrong and turn away from that sin.

By doing this, every day can be a fresh start!

BORN AGAIN?

YOU ARE NOW GOD'S CHILD

Your salvation means that you have been "born again".

This is a spiritual rebirth.

That's what it means to be ***born again***.

'Giving your heart to Jesus' – is not a biblical phrase.

Salvation, is God calling you to join His family, as you give God your total commitment, loyalty and allegiance and you abandon your old way of living. You accept God's way of life and become obedient to Him - His rule and His reign and His will over your life.

The moment you are '***spiritually born again***' you become part of His 'family' - people who have accepted the Lordship of Jesus - The Church.

*The Apostle John was overwhelmed by this.
He spoke for all of us when he exclaimed,
**"How great is the love the Father has lavished on
us, that we should be called children of God!"
1 John 3:1***



- The Word of God - The Bible, is given to us, to teach us how to "grow up" and "mature" in our new life with him.
- He has given us an open invitation to come and talk to him whenever we want to, in prayer.
- And he has created a "family" of brothers and sisters -- to encourage us - blow wind in your sails and support you.

ETERNAL LIFE?

Eternal life means that you will live in God's loving presence forever!

One of the most wonderful gifts God gives his children is eternal life with him.

When you pass from this physical life one day, immediately you will be with him in a glorious new life in heaven.

But the abundant life Jesus died for - doesn't start when you die. It starts right now!

Before you accepted the gift of salvation, it was like you were traveling alone, doing your best to find the right path.

But God knows you.

He created you with unique gifts and a purpose.

He has plans for your life that are specific, with an eternal purpose, that **only you** can fulfil.

His plan for your life is perfect for YOU!

With him in control, you will begin a new journey and discover a peace that is beyond all understanding in this life.

So, let God guide you every day.

**YOU HAVE UNIQUE GIFTS AND
A PURPOSE TO BE USED IN
GOD'S KINGDOM, TO BLESS
OTHERS AND HELP THEM
FIND THEIR PURPOSE TOO.**

Where do I go from here?

NEXT STEPS?

01. WATER BAPTISED

Rom: 6 tells us that through water baptism, you are freed from your past and The Law. It is a public demonstration of your belief in Jesus' crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. It is the outward symbol of what happened in your spirit when you accepted God into your life.

02. READ YOUR BIBLE

The Bible is the main way God has chosen to tell us about Himself. It's also the main way God has chosen to tell us about ourselves - who we are, His promises to us for now and for the future, and how we are to live successfully.

05. ATTEND CHURCH

We encourage our members to Know God, Find Freedom, Discover their Purpose and Make a difference.

03. PRAY

You now can come before the Ruler of the Universe and visit with Him; Share with him your intimate thoughts, desires and fears. Now you are His child. Talk to Him. Prayer is simply talking to your heavenly Father.

04. JOIN A SMALL GROUP

God has just plugged you into the most spiritually powerful entity on earth - the Church. When you accepted the free gift of salvation you became a vital part of God's family. There's more to God's family than most people ever imagine!

06. LIVE DIFFERENTLY

When you were born-again, God brought your spirit to life by putting His Holy Spirit in you. Jesus talked about another experience He called the "baptism of the Holy Spirit." This baptism - or overflowing - of the Spirit empowers you for service to God.

TALK TO GOD

PRAY

God's sons and daughters have access to Him.

Through Jesus Christ you have access to the throne of the King of kings any time you need it.

You actually have the right to come before the Ruler of the Universe and visit with Him;

to share with him your intimate thoughts, desires and fears.

After all, you're His child.

Talk to Him - That's what prayer is -- simply talking to your heavenly Father.

*You don't have to be on your knees, or close your eyes,
or be in a church when you talk to God.*

You can pray anywhere and anytime.

You can talk to God in the middle of your daily activities.

You do need to set aside a quiet time free of distractions to be alone with Him every day.

*Use this time to read His Word, the Bible, and to talk to Him. As you do this,
you will begin to grow in your new life with God.*

PRAYER IS NOT ...

1. Telling God what He must do for you.
2. Giving God a shopping list of your needs and wants.
3. Twisting God's arm to answer selfish requests.
4. Giving God instructions.
5. Not a one-way conversation. You need to listen - God wants to talk too.
6. Trying to convince God to do something.
7. Bribing or manipulating God - "God if you - then I will"
8. Begging or pleading God to help you.
9. Repetition. Praying the same prayer day after day - like Grace before a meal.
10. Ticking a box - Prayer is not a religious duty for the day!
11. Repeating the same words over - hoping God will eventually listen.
12. Calling out to God only when you are in trouble and need help urgently.
13. Copying someone else
14. Raising your voice and shouting - God is not deaf.
15. Following a formula of prayer or repeating a daily devotional. (Daily devotion is a good starting point as you learn). His Holy Spirit leads and guides us, as we pray.
16. Pray Holy Spirit I'll follow your lead today. You will pray powerful prayers.

Prayer is ...



1. Hearing God's voice - Talk to Him about everything in our life.
2. Speaking less - Hear God's heart on something and then pray by agreeing with God.
3. Is building a relationship with the heavenly Father. Amos 7:7 ... prayer helps us rebuild the skew walls (wrong theology) that we built around our heart.
4. Getting our heart in order and removing the paint that we put on the skew walls.
5. One on one conversations with God daily - no set time. God is our Father, everlasting friend and Counsellor.
6. Releasing heaven on earth and seeing His kingdom come - It's all about Him, His heart, His kingdom and for all people.
7. Praying the heart of God, so we become vessels that He can use and our prayers are answered.
8. Spending time with God wherever we are... He is always with us.
9. Constantly talking to God - He is our best friend, and we can be honest with Him. He is my 24hr lifeline - we can talk to Him whenever we want to.
10. A private place of trust – He makes everything right again.
11. Pillow talk – Intimate time of conversation with God - a special place with God.
12. A way for us to unlock what Heaven has for us and for those around us - to honour Him by doing what He has called us to.
13. A moment in the day to draw closer to Him and hear from Him .
14. Encouragement and gives us the ability to share the gospel.

WHAT GOD SAYS...

READ YOUR BIBLE

The Bible is the way God has chosen, to tell us about Himself. It's also the main way God has chosen to tell us about ourselves -- who we are, His promises to us for now, for the future, and how we are to live successfully.

More than 30 men wrote the Bible from about 1400 B.C. - A.D.90. The Bible is made up of history, poetry, letters to other churches and people, and much more. The 66 individual books fit together as a complete book -- Each one was inspired in a special way by the Holy Spirit. The Bible is God's Word to us.

Reading your bible to learn what God says is a very important part of your new life.

HOW?

Find a Bible that is easy to read. The Bible was originally written in Hebrew and Greek. You can choose from many different translations.

We use the New Living Translation (NLT), or the New International Version (NIV) because they are comfortable and easy to read.

Start in the book of John, followed by the book of Luke, Matthew and Mark - then the book of Acts, and the rest of the New Testament.

First, read it like you would a book. Read through the whole book from beginning to end.

Then go back and ask :

- **What does it say about God?**
- **What does it say about you?**

Use a journal to make notes

Ask God to show you how various passages apply to your life.

"A man who loves his wife will love her letters and her photographs because they speak to him of her. So, if we love the Lord Jesus we shall love the Bible because it speaks to us of him." - John R.W.Stott

CONNECTION / FELLOWSHIP

SMALL GROUPS

Join a small group and connect with other born-again Christians. God has just connected you into the most spiritually powerful entity on earth - The Church.

When you accepted the free gift of salvation you became a vital part of God's family - these people are your new family.

And there's more to God's family than most people ever imagine!

The Bible uses the picture of a body to describe the Church. Jesus is the head and each person (who has been born again) makes up a different part of the body.

- Everyone needs each other a
- Everyone has something special to contribute to the entire body.

The Church gives you strength and encouragement.

It is in community that the special and unique gifts God has put in you for the church, become evident to you. So being with other believers is very important. The Bible says ***"do not neglect meeting together"***.

Together, as members of one body, the Church has tremendous spiritual power against the evil in this world and to share the Good News about Jesus.

Each Person has unique gifts
— given to them by God, for
his Church — Discover yours!

YOU ARE PART OF A FAMILY

It is my responsibility to grow

- **Know God** - Get to know God in a personal relationship with Him
- **Find Freedom** - Get free from the effects of your past. Connect with other people to develop yourself.
- **Discover purpose** - Discover your gifts and purpose in life.
- **Make a difference** - Use your gifts to serve others. This is where our lives gain meaning

**Know
God
Sunday's**

**Find
Freedom
Small groups**

**Discover
Purpose
Disciplined**

**Make a
Difference
Serve**

BAPTISM OF HOLY SPIRIT

The "baptism of the Holy Spirit" (the "baptism or overflowing" of the Spirit) empowers you to serve God.

Sometimes this baptism happens the moment you accept Jesus as your Saviour, and sometimes it happens at a later time.

To receive this blessing you need to do a few things:

- **Ask.** The Bible says, "Ask, and it will be given to you."
- **Surrender.** Give yourself and everything in your life to God without reservation.
- **Obey.** The Spirit gives us the power to obey God's will, not follow our own desires.
- **Believe.** And then do the steps above .

The Bible teaches us that early Christians were baptised with the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them the words.

This was a special language which the speaker did not know.

"Speaking in tongues" communicates praise or worship to God.

It can help us in our prayer or intercession for others.

It is a gift which builds us up as believers.

And it is for you.

Pray and ask - and expect God to give you this gift.

It is an exciting experience to walk with God in the power of His Spirit.

You may have already "felt" an instant change - or not yet.

Little by little, as you travel through life with Jesus, you will see the world more and more as God sees it and this change will affect everything in your life!

Your priorities will change.

Your relationships with friends and family;

Your attitude to your job

What you do with your resources - your money, time and talents.

As you learn about Him through prayer, reading the Bible and being with other believers, God will show you practical answers to problems you face.

God bless you on your new journey.

Love from the Leadership of Victory Church Cradock

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