

### STEP 3 - MADE THE DECISION TO TURN FROM THE THINGS OF THE PAST AND INVITE JESUS TO BE LORD AND MANAGER OF OUR LIVES.

In Step 1 we admitted that our lives were unmanageable. In Step 2 we came to believe that Jesus was God incarnate. Now it is time to do something about it, and that is, to turn our lives and our wills over to Him.

If you are tired of playing God, why don't you let the One who created you become Lord of your life? Ask Him to forgive you of your sins and come in and be Lord and manager of your life. Ask Jesus to help you to live and to do His will instead of yours from this day forward.

#### COME AND RECEIVE - NOW!

**MATTHEW 11:28-30** - "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light".

1. First Jesus gives us "rest", then we find "rest". Explain.
2. Is there anything that we cannot bring to the Lord and trust him with it?

**PROVERBS 16:3** - Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

1. Are we willing to "go all the way" with the Lord?
2. Give an example of a time when you have done this.
3. What are some of the areas in our lives that we need Jesus to manage?

**2 CORINTHIANS 6:2** - For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the time of salvation.

1. Does this concept still apply today? Is this still the time of his favor?
2. When is the best time to take Step 3?
3. Why do some of us have difficulty with the "now is the time" concept?

#### WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE?

**JOHN 3:16-18** - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."

1. Why did Jesus come into the world and what is our condition if we do not accept Him?
2. Is this Scripture saying, that without Jesus I am "condemned already"?

**JOHN 3:36** - "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

1. What will happen to those who believe in Jesus? What happens to those who do not believe in Him?
2. Is this Scripture saying, "that without Jesus, God's wrath is already on us"?

### WHAT DO WE DO?

**ROMANS 10:9 & 10** - 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. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

1. What does a person do to "get saved"?
2. Why is it important to confess with our mouths? Give an example.
3. Have our lives changed as a result of doing this and believing it?

### WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

**1 JOHN 4:15-17** - If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.

1. How can we have God living in us? What is his command for us?
2. What does it mean "we know and rely on the love God has for us"?
3. Am I walking in God's love today? Am I confident of his perfect love?

**1 JOHN 5:4 & 5** - For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

1. What does it mean to "overcome the world"?
2. How can we overcome the world? Who is it that overcomes the world?

### DYING AND LIVING

**JOHN 10:17 & 18** - "The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life - only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."

1. What does it mean to "lay down our life"?
2. How does this Scripture relate to Step 3?

**JOHN 12:24** - "I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

1. Why does death have to occur before new life can emerge?
2. Is this principle true in our lives?
3. What does this Scripture mean to you?

**1 CORINTHIANS 15:22** - For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

1. Must the "Adam" in us die in order for the "Christ" in us to rise?
2. We are all born "into the death of Adam", have we now been born "into the life of Christ"?
3. Explain what this means to you.

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:15-19** - And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

1. How do we become new creations?
2. What does not regarding others "from a worldly point of view" have to do with "the ministry of reconciliation"?
3. Explain why we should no longer live for ourselves.

### THE GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:20 & 21** - We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**ROMANS 5:17** - For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

1. What is God's "abundant provision" for us? How do we receive it?
2. Can we receive rightstanding with God in any other way?
3. Have you received the gift of righteousness? Are you reigning in life through Jesus?

**PHILIPPIANS 3:7-9** - But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ - the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

1. What does consider everything a loss compared to knowing Christ mean to you?
2. Where should Christ be in our lives in relation to the other things in our lives?

### MAKE HIM LORD

**ROMANS 6:12-14** - Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law but under grace.

1. Does Jesus free us from control of the flesh so that we can exercise free choice?
2. What can we do to assure that we will never again be instruments of wickedness?
3. These Scriptures sum up Step 3. Have we really made this decision?

**1 PETER 1:13-16** - Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "be holy, because I am holy."

1. What does it mean to be self-controlled? Does this have anything to do with obedience?
2. How do we prepare our minds for action? What is the action we take?
3. Is it our hearts desire to "be holy"? Is holiness God's will for us?

### IS JESUS CHRIST LORD OF YOUR LIFE? - IF NOT - WHY NOT?

Lord Jesus, I believe that you died and rose so that I might live. And I invite you, this day, to come into my heart as Lord and Savior of my life - Amen.