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SPIRITUAL PREPARATION FOR YOUR JOURNEY

To get the most from this "journey," you must be spiritually prepared. The basic preparation is to know Jesus Christ as Lord (boss) and Savior, so He can be your spiritual Guide on the journey. If you have never received Him, or if you are not sure, there are four things you must understand . . .

1. God loves you and wants you to have eternal life.

The Bible says, For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16*). The Bible also says, But God commendeth [proved] his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8*).

2. You are sinful, and your sin separates you from God.

The Bible says, For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23*). Sin separates us from God, for the Bible says, But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you... (Isaiah 59:2*).

3. Only in Jesus Christ can forgiveness of sin and salvation be yours.

Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (John 14:6*). God loved us so much He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross to provide the way of salvation.

Right now you may be thinking, "I already believe these things." Well, the Bible teaches it is not a matter of just believing, for the devils also believe, and tremble (James 2:19b*). Simply believing Adolf Hitler lived and died doesn't make you a Nazi, and believing Jesus Christ lived and died doesn't make you a Christian. You must act upon what you believe.

4. You must receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

It is not enough to agree Jesus Christ is the Son of God and He died on the cross for your sins. You must receive Him as your personal Savior. The Bible says, as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God... (John 1:12*). You receive Him through prayer by simply inviting Him into your heart and life as Savior and Lord. Jesus said, Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him... (Revelation 3:20*). Right now Jesus is waiting at the door of your heart for you to invite Him in.

If there is the slightest tugging at your heart, that is the Holy Spirit drawing you to Christ. The Bible says, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts . . . (Hebrews 3:15*). Every time you sense God drawing you to Himself and you resist, you harden your heart a little more. Because of this, the day may come when you cannot even sense God speaking to you because your heart is so hard. You cannot get right with God too soon because you do not know how soon may be too late. So, today if you hear God's voice, do not harden your heart.

If you will pray the following prayer right now as your own, or pray in your own words asking forgiveness of your sins and inviting Jesus Christ into your heart, you can receive Him as Lord and Savior. The words you say are not as important as the attitude of your heart.

Dear Lord,

I know I have sinned, and right now I ask You to forgive me of all my sins. I open the door of my heart and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Take control of my life and help me become the person You want me to be. Thank You for dying on the cross so I could be forgiven. Amen.

Now, share your decision with your pastor or teacher.

*Scriptures from KJV