

Seven Incomparable Benefits of Trusting Christ

(The following principles are summarized from the writings of many scholars of all major denominations.)

From history's beginning, through prophets and events, the Creator revealed His loving plan to rescue the human race from its self-imposed curse of sin and death. He would do this by sending His Son, who would become a sacrificial Lamb and take the judgment upon Himself of all who would put their trust in Him. This profound event happened about 2,000 years ago when Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, came, was crucified, rose from the grave (seen by more than 500 people), and 40 days later visibly ascended into heaven. When you put your trust in Christ, you become a recipient of the greatest gifts in the universe, fully paid for by the blood of God's own Son.

1. **You have total forgiveness.** All your sins - past, present, and future - were forgiven because Jesus bore them for you on the cross. You are accepted by God, NOT because of what you have done, but BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DID! *"For by grace (unmerited favor) you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves (not your efforts), it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast"* (Ephesians 2:8-9).
2. **You have peace with God.** *"Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ... the love of God has been poured out within our hearts... having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him."*(Romans 5:1,5,9). For Jewish readers, this first appearance of Yeshua the Messiah (Jesus Christ in English), as a sacrifice, was predicted throughout Jewish Scriptures. For example, see Isaiah, chapter 53.
3. **You have been "born again" into God's own family.** You are a new creature! *"If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away, behold, new things have come"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). *"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus"* (Galatians 3:26).
4. **You have eternal life.** You will live with God forever! *"Whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life"* (John 3:16). *"God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son"* (1 John 5:11)
5. **God lives in you.** You have become a temple, or dwelling place, of God's Spirit. He lives inside of you! *"Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"* (1 Corinthians 3:16). *"It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me"* (Galatians 2:20).
6. **Nothing can separate you from the love of Christ!** *"Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 8:38-39).
7. **God has chosen to share His kingdom with you!** *"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom"* (Luke 12:32). *"If children, (we are) heirs also."* (Romans 8:17).

Have you prayed and expressed your faith and trust in Jesus Christ? If not, you can do so right now. Here is a suggested prayer: **“Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Son of God and that you died on the cross for my sins to save me from eternal death. I open the door of my life and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Help me to be what you want me to be. Amen.”**

But what does God want from me now?

That is probably your question, and a natural one. But remember, God is all powerful and owns the universe. He really does not need anything we have. But He does want something. He desires our love and fellowship. He created us for fellowship with Himself and to enjoy Him forever. Christianity is not a “religion” as many people think. It is a *RELATIONSHIP* with God. Of course, God also wanted our obedience and submission to His superior wisdom, but mainly for our own good and so that He can use us to be a blessing to others. His ways are always for a loving purpose. The following principles from God’s Word will strengthen your relationship with Him, help you to be a more effective servant, and help you to receive all the blessings that our loving God has for you.

Talk with God continually.

That is what prayer is – talking with God. It also means listening, always in tune to His Spirit, everywhere you may be, day or night. In Jesus’ Name, we have the incredible privilege of communicating directly with the Creator of the universe. *“Pray without ceasing!”* (1 Thes 5:17)

Read His Word, the Bible.

God will speak with you through His Word. You will learn more about His nature, ways, and His will and the promises for your life. The Gospel of John is a good place to start. A modern translation and good commentary (an NIV Ryrie study bible is great) will help your understanding. *“Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path”* (Psalm 19:105).

Obey Him.

Our obedience shows our love for God and recognition of who He is. *“He who has my commandments, and keeps them, he it is who loves Me, and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to Him* (John 14:21). God’s Word says that sin grieves God, hinders our fellowship with Him, and harms ourselves and others. If you do sin, confess and forsake it immediately, then (by faith) receive God’s forgiveness and cleansing according to 1 John 1:9. One of your first acts of obedience should be believer’s baptism in water which is an outward demonstration that when you received Christ as Savior your old nature was buried with Christ and you have risen with Him in His resurrection. Baptism is usually done in the local church. Water baptism does not save, it is an outward sign that you have already been saved, and desire to follow Christ.

Find fellowship with other believers.

Our relationships with other believers are important to God. That is why He established the church, where we can worship together and find fellowship, teaching, counseling, ministry to our special needs, and where God can use us to impart these same blessings to others. *“Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...”* (Hebrews 10:25). Find a Christ-centered, Bible-believing church. But beware of cults (see special report).

Be filled with the Spirit.

(Ephesians 5:18) By faith, be continually empowered for God’s use by His Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)

You have now entered the most exciting and fulfilling life imaginable! Learn to trust God with every detail of your life. (1 Peter 5:7), tell others about God’s great love, and “good news” (John 15:8); do not give in to your carnal desires (Galatians 5:16:17). May God richly bless you.”