

Doris' Doodles

Am I a Christian? (Part 2)

These two most recent Doodles are written specifically with the aim of helping those who are asking questions about Christianity or who lack assurance and feel that they are not able to answer the above question.



The following things are what those who are Christians would often do, but, **not one** of these things automatically makes a person a Christian.



** Go to church. May go to church because taken by parents or to meet friends.

** Parents are Christians. Parents have made the decision to be Christians but that does not mean that their children have also made the same decision.

** Baptized/Christened as a child. Often just a naming ceremony. Parents and god-parents promise to bring up the child to go to church etc. but child too young to decide for himself/herself.

** Sing in the choir. May enjoy singing. (Or being visible at the front of the church!)



** Read the Bible. A person may know lots about the contents of the Bible and even have a degree in theology but may not have a personal relationship with Jesus.



** Give money to charity. Many people give money to charities in order to help others. They do not have to be a Christian in order to do this.

Different words used: Here are some of the words that are used in the various Christian denominations to describe becoming a Christian.

Christian – Follower of Jesus Christ.

Born-again – Have become another person.

Saved – Saved from going to hell.

Child of God – Will be with God in Heaven after death.

Converted – Changed from the person they once were to the person they have become.

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Question: Are you a whole person living as God intended you to live?

Body - Is your body functioning properly? ie. Do you eat food, move around, go to work. Mind you, maybe you are a bit like me and can eat food but do not do much moving around!

Mind – Is your mind functioning properly? ie. Hold conversations, read, hobbies. Don't worry if you are sometimes a bit forgetful, as long as your mind is still working!

Spirit – Is your spirit functioning properly? ie. Do you think about God, pray, read the Bible?

To be a whole person means that all of these three parts of us are working:

Body working? "Yes" Mind working? "Yes" Spirit working? ??????

Our bodies and minds may be functioning as normal, yet the spirit part of us may be dormant. Our spirits can be roused into action by a crisis in our lives and cause us to suddenly ask God for help, but sadly, once the crisis is over our spirits may again become dormant and God does not form part of our everyday thinking. When we become a Christian it is as if our spirits are set in motion. Let me give you an illustration.



You may have a lovely car that is paid for, has passed its MOT, insured and with a tank full of fuel. You have passed your driving test and everything is on target for you to get in and drive away to the seaside, **BUT**, until you turn on the ignition that car will not take you anywhere. Making a decision to become a Christian and follow Jesus is like turning the ignition on to our spirits. We start to be more aware of God and begin to pray to Him. We want, not only to follow Jesus, but also to have a personal relationship with Him. We will want to begin to read the Bible and go to church to be with other Christians.

Becoming a Christian

If you would like to become a Christian, then here is a prayer for you to pray:-

Lord Jesus, I know that I have done wrong and am not able to save myself. I believe that you are the Son of God who died on the cross for my sins and that you rose again from the dead and went back to Heaven. Thank you for enabling me to have the gift of eternal life. I ask you to forgive me and come into my heart and be my Lord and Saviour. Amen.

A prayer such as this is often referred to in churches as 'The sinner's prayer'. Sometimes a person will immediately feel different after saying this prayer. Others might come into a realization after a few days that they are now saved and have become a Christian. Do tell another Christian about your decision as their encouragement will help you feel assured about this and also often gives a bond with them.

Am I a Christian? I do hope that you are now able to answer a definite "Yes" to this question.

I usually write down Bible references at the end of the Doodle, but, because there will be some who will make this decision who do not have a Bible or who are not familiar with reading it, I am writing out a few helpful verses.

John 1: 21. 'Mary will bear a son and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save people from their sins.'

John 3: 16. 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.'

Romans 10: 9-10. 'If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.'