

## WHAT DO I DO AFTER TRUSTING IN JESUS?

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If we make the decision to trust in Jesus, something very major happens. The Bible says that God's Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us.

2 Corinthians 1:21–22: Now he which stablishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, is God; Who has also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

When this happens, the Holy Spirit's presence within us breaks the power that disobedience had over us. The Bible says that before we trust in Jesus, our condition is like being in bondage to a propensity to disobey God. It's like being a slave to disobedience--we always disobey. But the Holy Spirit breaks that bondage. We are no longer a slave.

Romans 8:2: For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

The Holy Spirit breaks that bondage, but He doesn't break out free will. He is within us to give us power and strength to obey, if we will choose to let Him help us. After we trust in Jesus, we are supposed to obey God. We are supposed to do what is right, and we still choose whether we will do so.

Romans 6:11–14: Likewise reckon you also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield you your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under the law, but under grace.

God will help us, if we will let Him. This is called the grace of God. God is very gracious. The death and resurrection of Jesus is a very gracious gift, and the presence and strength of the Holy Spirit within us is a very gracious gift.

We need to be careful, though, after we have this gift, to not choose to throw it away. Individual free choice is still in effect.

But the Bible tells us that ignoring the Holy Spirit and not letting Him help us, or disobeying what He wants us to do, is a very big insult to God. In fact, insulting the Holy Spirit is the worst possible thing that we can do.

Hebrews 10:29: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose you, shall he be thought worthy, who has trodden under foot the Son of God, and has counted the blood of

the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and has done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

Mark 3:28–29: Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: but he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost has never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation.

After we trust in Jesus, we need to remember that we carry a very special gift. This gift is the presence of God's Spirit—Who has a high moral standard and sensitive emotional feelings. We need to not ignore Him, not insult Him, but instead acknowledge His presence and choose to let Him help us. We need to rely on His grace.

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