

ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Session 4

How can I have Faith



Alpha

WELCOME TO ALPHA – A SERIES OF INTERACTIVE SESSIONS TO DISCUSS LIFE AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN AN INFORMAL, FUN AND FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT.

After each talk, there is a time for discussion with the people in your pew, during which you can ask questions, delve into different issues and find out what others think.

This is your guide, so use it however you like. Write, scribble, note, jot, or doodle. Whatever helps.

After each discussion there will be a short time of worship and prayer during which you are invited to sing and pray along with the rest of the congregation, or if you prefer simply listen and observe.

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“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” (2 Corinthians 5:17, NLT)

A Christian is a **Christ-ian**: someone who follows and puts their faith in Jesus Christ.

How that happens varies enormously. For some there is a definite moment; for others it is a more gradual process.

When you receive Christ, you become a child of God. (John 1:12)
God wants you to be sure of your faith.

**“I write these things to you who believe in
the name of the Son of God so that you
may know that you have eternal life.”**

(1 JOHN 5:13)

Faith is not a blind leap, but a step based on evidence.

1. THE WORD OF GOD

We must not only trust our feelings, which can be changeable and may even be deceptive at times, but instead rely on God’s promises.

“... faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.” (Romans 10:17)

“I will come in.” (Revelation 3:20)

“I am with you always.” (Matthew 28:20)

“I give them eternal life.” (John 10:28)

2. THE WORK OF JESUS

You come exactly as you are. It’s not about what you do or what you can achieve; it’s about what has been done for you by Jesus on the cross.

Free gift of God (Romans 6:23).

It’s free but not cheap: it cost Jesus His life.

We receive it through repentance (turning away from sin) and faith (trust).

3. THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

When someone becomes a Christian, God comes to live inside them by His Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9).

- He transforms us from within.
 - Our characters (Galatians 5:22–23)
 - Our relationships
- He brings a deep personal conviction that we are God's children.
 - Faith to knowledge (Romans 8:15–16)

Here is a very simple prayer that you can pray to open the door of your heart to Jesus Christ and invite Him to come into your life by His Spirit:

**Lord Jesus Christ,
I am sorry for the things I have done
wrong in my life (take a few moments to
ask his forgiveness for anything particular
that is on your conscience).
Please forgive me. I now turn from
everything that I know is wrong.
Thank you that you died on the cross for
me so that I could be forgiven and set free.
Thank you that you offer me forgiveness and
the gift of your Spirit. I now receive that gift.
Please come into my life by your Holy
Spirit to be with me forever.
Thank you, Lord Jesus.
Amen.**

RECOMMENDED READING

The Reason for God
Tim Keller

Is Faith Irrational?
Nicky Gumbel

One Step Beyond: One Man's Journey From Near Death to New Life
Gram Seed

We pray and give thanks for

International

- Our Companion Diocese of Ho - Bishop Matthias

Mission of the Month

- St Paul's VBS

Diocese

- Our Bishop David and his wife Janet
- Retired Bishops Harold, George, William and Claude.

Government

- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
- Premier Brian Gallant
- Mayor Ken Chorley and the town council

Deanery

- Parish of Quispamsis
- Retired Clergy - Rev. David Gray

Parish

- Rev. David & Family
- Rev. Deacon Deborah Cochran & Family

The sick and the shut-ins

Raymond Bates, Don Buchanan, Bobbi-Jo Corner, Loretta Derrah, Barb Glauser, Rick Hatchette, Dawn Lent, Paul Robichaud, Lloyd Ryder, Sue Scribner, Erika Wisted

July 31	10:00 am Morning Prayer & Praise <i>Alpha 5 – Why & How do I pray?</i>
Music Leader	Christian Gowan
Layreader	Heather Miller
Reader	Lorraine Brown Luke 11: 1-13
Greeters	Janice Kelly / Liam Kelly
A/V	Kevin Scott
Sunday School	Alice Kennedy / Joyce Logan
Chancel	Pat Richards / Barb Goucher
Counters	Janice Kelly / Myra Stites