**What happens when a person becomes a Christian?**

INTRO:

Many people don’t know what the Bible teaches.

Most know that they are **forgiven** of their sins.

Many who claim to be Christians don’t think or **behave** any differently than most other people.

1. **How it begins**
   1. We **hear** the Gospel message Rom. 10:17
   2. We believe it to be **true**. Rom. 1:16; Eph. 1:13
   3. God creates **faith** in us. Rom 4:16; Ephe. 2:8-9
   4. We trust in **Christ**. The DECISION. Jhn 1:12
2. **If nothing else happened**, you have reason to **doubt** if you were truly saved.
3. **BAPTISM** is a public declaration of you commitment to follow Jesus and marks a change of **direction**. Acts 2:38
4. **Forgiveness of sin is not the only benefit of salvation!**
   1. God wants to save you from **Hell** and admit you to **Heaven**. Jhn 17:24
   2. He wants to change your life by giving you
      1. Freedom from **earning** salvation, Eph 2:8-9
      2. **Joy**, John 15:11
      3. Fulfillment, Phil 4:11
      4. **Fruitfulness**, Matt 3:8; Jn 15:5
5. **Becoming a Christian results in life-change!** God makes you a brand new person; a new creation. 2 Cor. 5:17
   1. Your relationship with God was **broken** by your sin; Now you are **accepted** by God as if you never sinned. Rom 15:7
   2. You were **dead** in sin; now you are **born** from above. Eph 2:4-5
   3. You were **blind** to spiritual **truth**; now you can

understand. 2 Cor 4:4

* 1. Once you were **impure**; now God wants to make you pure like **Christ** for His service. Eph 5:5; 1 Jn 3:3
  2. Once you only had human interests and talents; now gives you new relationships, desires and capacities. Rom 12:6; 1 Cor 12
  3. Once you feared **death**; now you have **peace** and hope. Heb 2:15; Rom 5:1
  4. Your life was without direction or purpose; now God has given you **purpose**. 1 Cor 10:31
  5. Once you lived like the **world**; now Christ **Jesus** is your model and guide. Titus 2:12

1. **This change is not instantaneous!**
   1. Old habits are hard to **break**.
   2. We will always battle **temptation** 1 Pet. 5:8-9
   3. It is a process of **growth**. 2 Pet. 3:18
   4. Our goal is Christlikeness- pure and **holy**. Col. 1:21-23
   5. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you **want** to obey. Phil 2:13
   6. Spend **time** with God each day reading the Bible and in prayer.
   7. Put on the **whole** armor of God. Ephe. 6
   8. Find a **church** where the **Bible** is taught clearly and simply. Heb 10:25
   9. Seek **fellowship** with other Christians Acts 2:42

2 Cor. 13:5 “Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves.”