

Making JESUS CHRIST LORD of Your Life

The Journey: Making JESUS LORD of your life is a two-part journey: Your first decision of faith, followed by a lifelong process of daily surrender. In Christian theology, while JESUS is already LORD over ALL creation, "MAKING HIM LORD" refers to you turning over your own will TO HIS AUTHORITY. Asking JESUS to change your will to match HIS will—to make HIS desires, your desires.

1. THE INITIAL DECISION (Salvation)

The first step is recognizing your NEED FOR A SAVIOR and acknowledging JESUS' AUTHORITY THROUGH FAITH.

- **Admit:** Acknowledge that you are a sinner and cannot save yourself through your own good works.
- **Believe:** Trust in your heart that JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD and that HE died for your sins and rose again.
- **Confess:** "Openly declare" that JESUS IS THE LORD of your life.
- **Prayer of Surrender:** You can express this decision through a prayer like this:

LORD JESUS, I know that I am a sinner. I BELIEVE YOU died for me and rose again. I now open my heart and ACCEPT YOU AS MY SAVIOR and THE LORD OF MY LIFE. Help me TO FOLLOW YOU from this day forward. Amen.

2. THE LIFELONG PROCESS (Sanctification)

Once you have made the decision, YOU LIVE UNDER HIS "NEW MANAGEMENT" DAILY thru these practical steps:

Hebrews 10:14 – "For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified."

↗ Your relationship with GOD has "TOTALLY CHANGED" because of JESUS!

Romans 2:4 - "Or do you despise the riches of HIS GOODNESS, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?" Repentance = CHANGE

- **SURRENDER Daily:** Start each day by CONSCIOUSLY HANDING OVER YOUR PLANS and WILL to HIM.
- **STUDY the WORD:** Regularly, READ THE BIBLE TO UNDERSTAND HIS COMMANDS and HOW HE WANTS YOU TO LIVE. Many suggest starting with the **Gospel of John**.
- **Prioritize PRAYER:** Maintain a constant "chat" with GOD throughout the day, SEEKING HIS WISDOM FOR EVERY DECISION.
- **Obey HIS COMMANDS:** Put HIS TEACHINGS into practice, such as loving your enemies, forgiving others and being honest—doing this WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE!
- **Rely on the HOLY SPIRIT:** Acknowledge that you cannot live this life by your own strength; ASK THE HOLY SPIRIT to empower you to **MAKE CHOICES THAT PLEASE GOD**.
- **FIND Community:** Join a local church to grow alongside other born-again believers and serve people using your unique gifts.
- **CONFESS When You Fail:** When you sin—don't hide; IMMEDIATELY CONFESS IT TO GOD TO RESTORE YOUR FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM.

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30-DAY "FIRST STEPS" GUIDE

Making JESUS the LORD of your life is a transformation that occurs one choice at a time. This focuses on shifting from living for yourself **TO LIVING FOR HIM** thru daily scripture, reflection and surrender.

WEEK 1: ESTABLISHING THE FOUNDATION

→FOCUS: *Understanding your new identity and GOD'S character.*

- **DAY 1: A NEW CREATION** ↔ 2 Corinthians 5:17 – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
 → **PRAYER:** *LORD, THANK YOU for giving me a NEW HEART. Help me leave my old ways behind today.*
- **DAY 2: ADOPTED BY GOD** ↔ Romans 8:15–16 – ¹⁵“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,”
 → **PRAYER:** *FATHER GOD, THANK YOU for adopting me. Help me live with the confidence of YOUR child.*
- **DAY 3: GOD'S GOOD PLANS** ↔ Jeremiah 29:11 – “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”
 → **PRAYER:** *JESUS, I trust YOUR plans for my future more than my own. Lead me today.*
- **DAY 4: UNCONDITIONAL LOVE** ↔ Romans 8:38–39 – ³⁸“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, ³⁹nor 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.”
 → **PRAYER:** *THANK YOU that nothing can separate me from YOUR LOVE. Help me rest in this truth.*
- **DAY 5: TOTAL TRUST** ↔ Proverbs 3:5–6 – ⁵“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; ⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”
 → **PRAYER:** *I choose NOT to lean on my own understanding. I acknowledge YOU in every decision today.*
- **DAY 6: SEEKING HIM FIRST** ↔ Matthew 6:33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”
 → **PRAYER:** *LORD, help me to SEEK YOUR KINGDOM and YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS above all my other needs.*
- **DAY 7: THE GIFT OF GRACE** ↔ Ephesians 2:8–9 – ⁸“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast.”
 → **PRAYER:** *THANK YOU that my salvation is a gift—NOT something I earned. I live today out of gratitude.*

WEEK 2: LIVING UNDER HIS AUTHORITY

→Focus: *Learning to obey and yield your will.*

- **DAY 8: DAILY CROSS-BEARING** ↔ Luke 9:23 – [JESUS talking] “Then HE SAID to them all, “If anyone desires to come after ME, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow ME.”
 → **PRAYER:** *“JESUS, I choose to deny my selfish desires today and follow YOU instead.”*

- **DAY 9: RENEWING YOUR MIND** ↔ *Romans 12:2* – And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

→ PRAYER: "HOLY SPIRIT, transform the way I think so I can discern YOUR perfect will."
- **DAY 10: SUBMISSION TO GOD** ↔ *James 4:7* – "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

→ PRAYER: I submit myself to YOU, LORD. Give me the strength to resist temptation today.
- **DAY 11: THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST** ↔ *Colossians 1:15–18* – ¹⁵"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence."

→ PRAYER: JESUS, BE SUPREME in my home, my work and my relationships.
- **DAY 12: OBEDIENCE IN LOVE** ↔ *John 14:15* – "If you love Me, keep My commandments."

→ PRAYER: LORD, show me how to express my love FOR YOU through simple acts of obedience today."
- **DAY 13: LIGHT OF THE WORLD** ↔ *Matthew 5:14–16* – ¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

→ PRAYER: Let my life reflect YOUR LIGHT so that others may see YOUR GOODNESS through me.
- **DAY 14: FOLLOWING THE SHEPHERD** ↔ *John 10:27* – "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."

→ PRAYER: JESUS, help me to recognize YOUR VOICE today and give me the courage to follow.

WEEK 3: GROWING IN THE SPIRIT

→ FOCUS: Relying on GOD'S POWER rather than your own strength.

- **DAY 15: THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT** ↔ *Galatians 5:22–23* – ²²"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

→ PRAYER: HOLY SPIRIT, produce YOUR love, joy and peace in me today.
- **DAY 16: STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS** ↔ *2 Corinthians 12:9* – "And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

→ PRAYER: LORD, when I feel weak, let YOUR POWER be made perfect in me."
- **DAY 17: WALKING IN THE SPIRIT** ↔ *Galatians 5:16* – "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

→ PRAYER: Help me to walk by the SPIRIT today so I do not gratify my own sinful nature.
- **DAY 18: GOD'S WORD AS A LAMP** ↔ *Psalm 119:105* – "Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path."

→ PRAYER: Direct my steps through YOUR WORD today. Show me the path I should take.

- **DAY 19: PEACE BEYOND UNDERSTANDING** ↔ *Philippians 4:6–7* – “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
 → **PRAYER:** *I hand my anxieties to YOU. Please guard my heart with YOUR PEACE.*
- **DAY 20: CLOTHED IN COMPASSION** ↔ *Colossians 3:12–14* – ¹²“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. ¹⁴But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”
 → **PRAYER:** *LORD, help me put on kindness, humility, and patience as I interact with others.*
- **Day 21: POWER, LOVE, AND DISCIPLINE** ↔ *2 Timothy 1:7* – “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”
 → **PRAYER:** *THANK YOU for not giving me a spirit of fear, but of power and a sound mind.*

WEEK 4: PERSEVERING & SERVING

FOCUS: *Building a long-term habit of faith and community.*

- **DAY 22: ABIDING IN THE VINE** ↔ *John 15:5* – “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”
 → **PRAYER:** *JESUS, I can do nothing without YOU. Help me STAY CONNECTED TO YOU all day.*
- **DAY 23: Pressing Toward the Goal** ↔ *Philippians 3:13–14* – ¹³“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”
 → **PRAYER:** *I forget what is behind and strain toward WHAT IS AHEAD IN YOU.*
- **DAY 24: LOVING ONE ANOTHER** ↔ *John 13:34–35* – ³⁴“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
 → **PRAYER:** *Show me someone today who needs YOUR LOVE through my actions.*
- **DAY 25: FORGIVING OTHERS** ↔ *EPHESIANS 4:32* – “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”
 → **PRAYER:** *Help me FORGIVE AS YOU HAVE FORGIVEN ME—releasing ALL bitterness.*
- **DAY 26: FAITHFULNESS IN SMALL THINGS** ↔ *Luke 16:10* – “He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.”
 → **PRAYER:** *LORD, help me be faithful in the small, unseen tasks today.*
- **DAY 27: THE ARMOR OF GOD** ↔ *Ephesians 6:10–11* – ¹⁰“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”
 → **PRAYER:** *I put on YOUR ARMOR today to stand firm against any spiritual challenge.*
- **DAY 28: ENCOURAGING BELIEVERS** ↔ *Hebrews 10:24–25* – ²⁴“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”
 → **PRAYER:** *Help me find ways to encourage my brothers and sisters in faith today.*

- **DAY 29: ENDURING TRIALS** ↔ James 1:2–4 – ²“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”
→ **PRAYER:** *LORD, use this current challenge to build my character and perseverance.*
- **DAY 30: THE GREAT COMMISSION** ↔ Matthew 28:19–20 – ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*” Amen.
→ **PRAYER:** *JESUS, THANK YOU for being with me always. Use my life to lead others to YOU.*

PRACTICAL TIP: To STAY CONSISTENT, SET A SPECIFIC TIME & A PLACE EACH MORNING for this 15-minute habit.