

Accepting Jesus (Yeshua) as the Messiah

There have been many theories about what accepting Yeshua¹ (Jesus) as the Messiah means. Some say that we just need to accept Yeshua, others say there is a specific formula or prayer, still others say it requires immersion in water. On the other hand, some say that we must go through endless man-made rules. One way is a flimsy ineffective way of committing to the Messiah Yeshua that pretends to bring change, and another way is about following endless man-made rules that makes following God harder than it needs to be. In English, Jesus Christ refers to Yeshua the Anointed One, the Messiah. Whether you accept him as Jesus or Yeshua, God understands who we are making a commitment to; He knows our intentions. From here on out, Jesus will be referred to with His real name as seen in the Hebrew manuscripts of the Bible; namely, Yeshua.

Imagine you at a restaurant with many tables open and ready for you. You don't have to wait in line or have the right credentials to sit down, you just sit down. In the same way we don't have to jump through hoops or have special credentials to accept Yeshua. After you sit down at the restaurant, we learn what is on the menu, order our food and when our dinner comes, we get to enjoy our dinner. It's a little like that in accepting Yeshua. Anyone can accept the Messiah. He is the Messiah for the whole world. After we accept Yeshua as the Messiah, we begin learning about God and what the Bible says just like when we read the menu. We then start doing what God wants us to do and that begins restoring our relationship with God.

In the process we can have a more enjoyable and better life. God never meant for the world to be in such a mess. We only have to pick up a newspaper or read the headlines online to see that the world needs help. God can help us and He can help the world, he is the creator. He wants to help us and help the world, but He leaves it up to us. He doesn't bully us into living a better and more fulfilling life; God wants us to want Him and use our own free will to accept Him.

Accepting Yeshua is only the first step in the process of our return to God, but is a necessary first step. Kefa (Peter) says that we are 'to turn away from sin and return to God;' namely, we are to repent. The Hebrew word teshuvah means that we are to change how we think and do things God's way (all the early believers in Yeshua (Jesus) were Jewish so they understood the idea of turning towards God); we turn towards God and in the process, we are returning back to God; we then learn about what is right and do it. That begins our walk (halakha) with God and the Messiah.

Kefa (Peter)² says in Acts 2:38 CJB, "Kefa answered them, "Turn from sin, return to God, and each of you be immersed on the authority of Yeshua the Messiah into forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Ruach HaKodesh!" We are to turn towards God and turn away from sin (evil – falling short), accept the authority of the Messiah Yeshua, and receive the Holy Spirit. Shaul (the Apostle Paul) said in Romans 10:9 CJB "That if you acknowledge publicly with your mouth that Yeshua is Lord and trust in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be delivered."

If you are not ready to accept the Messiah yet, by all means allow yourself the opportunity to fully explore who He is. Try reading Isaiah 53 which was written some 600 years before Yeshua came and is a prophecy about Him! The gospels are amazing stories about Yeshua that prove He is the Messiah

Just saying a prayer does not mean you are automatically going to heaven. It is the start of your relationship with God. Here is one of the prayers you could say. If you are ready to take that first step and receive the Messiah now, say this prayer:

God, I am making a commitment to return to you and to learn and do what you have commanded us to do. I accept the authority of Yeshua (Jesus) as the true Messiah to the world, I confess Yeshua as Lord and I believe He died for my sins (for where I fall short) so that I could be forgiven and that He rose from the dead. I now receive the free gift of the promised Holy Spirit; I am now forgiven of my past sins; I will now live a holy life; and by continuing to live and act in faith towards you God, I will receive eternal life from You. Amen.

¹ Yeshua is Jesus' actual Hebrew name that we see in the Hebrew manuscripts of Matthew. Messiah refers to who Yeshua is, the prophesied anointed one. Christ in the Greek refers to the anointed one (who is the Messiah).

² Using the real names of the people in the Bible places the Bible in its correct context; they were Jewish. So, it is good idea to learn the real names along with the English translations of those names.