
An Invitation

Chaplain Joy L. Smith

Now you have heard my story and read some of my offerings. While reading, you may have thought of your own spiritual journey. Or, perhaps, you felt a “knock on your heart’s door” inviting you to follow Jesus Christ. If so, I hope you will respond. It is just a matter of saying “yes” to that call felt within. People who do so know they are making a decision that will change their lives.

Most of us feel unworthy of God’s favor. We think of our past mistakes and failures. Yet, all it takes is asking to be forgiven; then, *in an instant* our hearts are cleansed. From that moment on, the precious presence of God is there to awaken our spirits. God makes it simple for the journey to begin. Scripture says we “carry precious treasure in earthen vessels.” Gradually, life is changed. And, we are no longer alone.

Here is a simple prayer in the event you find it helpful:

“Dear God, I desire to give You the contents of my heart--the good of it and the not so good of it. I accept the call of Jesus Christ and acknowledge Him as Your Son, my Savior. I believe you can strengthen me to the point wherein You, Lord, can use my gifts and my talents in the service of Your kingdom. As I surrender my heart, I pray *Your kingdom to come and for Your will to be done in my life. Amen.*”

The first thing to do, now, is to find other Christians who understand what you have just done and will help you grow in your Christian faith. Going to church will give you a family within this chosen walk with God. There are many churches to choose from. Visit until you feel welcomed and have a sense of, “*Yes! This is it,*” felt in your heart. Now, you will be at home. You will have opportunities for worship and also for studying the Bible. Here, you will gain rewarding connections with other believers.

What I’ve come to love most is listening to the stories of what takes place in the lives of individuals once they chose to make Jesus Christ Lord of their lives. You too can tell your story as the Spirit prompts you, for you will indeed have a story to tell.

***“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone
Hears My voice and opens the door,
I will come in to him and will dine with him,
and he with Me.” (Rev. 3:20)***