

A photograph of a person in a crowd with their hand raised, set against a background of blurred lights and other people. The scene is dimly lit with purple and blue tones, suggesting a concert or festival atmosphere. The person's hand is the central focus, reaching upwards. The text 'BECAUSE YOU RESPONDED' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font at the bottom of the image.

**BECAUSE YOU
RESPONDED**

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

You're no longer strangers or outsiders.
You belong here, God is building a home.

Ephesians 2:19 MSG



Because you raised your hand in the service and prayed a prayer of commitment with all of us, this booklet offers some valuable advice for your future in God. In this booklet we explain the steps to become fully established in Christ, and how to take your decision to Christian maturity. It's been our privilege to pray with you in the service today and we trust you will take the time to read this booklet fully to avail yourself of all that God has for you in your Christian walk. We believe that as you read and act on the simple practical advice given in this booklet, you will grow and flourish in Christ.

Blessings,
Pastors André & Wilma Olivier



HOW TO BE SURE OF YOUR SALVATION

Can anyone really be sure that they are saved and forgiven and have a fresh start with God after praying a simple prayer? Yes they can!

It's really quite simple. The Bible gives us the truth about salvation and we have listed a number of encouraging promises for you to read and place your trust in.



"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved."

Romans 10:9,10 NLT

Therefore, if you have prayed and asked Jesus into your life and believe with all your heart that He is your Saviour, then you are saved. But you might say that you do not 'feel' saved. Well, the Bible again says...

"I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life."


John 5:24 NLT

If you now know this, yet feel that you still sin and fail, what then? The Bible goes on to tell us how to respond to sin and failure while God is working in us.

"But if we walk in the light, God Himself being the light, we also experience a shared life with one another, as the sacrificed blood of Jesus, God's Son, purges all our sin. If we claim that we're free of sin, we're only fooling ourselves. A claim like that is errant nonsense. On the other hand, if we admit our sins – make a clean breast of them - He won't let us down; He'll be true to himself. He'll forgive our sins and purge us of all wrongdoing."

1 John 1:7-9 MSG

You now need to walk in faith believing that God is true to His word and that you are saved. This is the most exciting decision you could make, but there is more...



HOW TO GO ON AND GROW IN GOD

In order for you to grow and become all that God has for you in Christ, there are several important steps you will need to take.

ATTEND A GREAT CHURCH REGULARLY

This is where you can receive the spiritual food that you need to grow in your relationship with God and others. Make sure you don't miss out on anything God is doing in church.

"They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved."

Acts 2:46-47 MSG

"And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near."

Hebrews 10:25 NLT

Sitting under good teaching is like milk for your soul and will establish you quickly in the things of God.

BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST HAS COME INTO YOUR LIFE

If you have asked Jesus to come into your life and be your Lord and Saviour then you can be sure that He will respond and do just that. It is a fact, not a feeling, and you will need to trust His promises, not your feelings. Feelings will often lie to us and make us feel we are not saved. Jesus himself said...

"Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne." Revelation 3:20-21 NLT

"He came into the very world He created, but the world didn't recognise Him. He came to His own people, and even they rejected Him. But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn - not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God." John 1:10-13 NLT

This tells us that we are saved and accepted by God because of our trust in Jesus, not our performance or works. If you feel unworthy or unsure then it is not because God has not accepted you, but that you have not fully believed or understood that God has accepted you in Christ.





REALISE THAT FAITH SAVES US AND NOT OUR GOOD DEEDS

"And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. Now all glory to God our Father forever and ever! Amen."

Philippians 4:19-20 NLT

As we trust Jesus for eternal life, we can also trust Him for everything else we need in our lives. By depending on and trusting in Jesus we are brought to the Father and made right with God. God has good deeds that He wants you to do in order to impact your world, but we don't do deeds to be saved and accepted by God. We do good deeds because we have been saved and now want to help others and show the love of God to them.

"God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago."

Ephesians 2:8-10 NLT

READ AND PRAY REGULARLY

Reading the Bible regularly will teach you about God, and praying regularly will help you connect with God and have your needs met. Also when we pray, God speaks to us; it is not a one-way conversation. You can connect with God about all the issues in your life. For example: your fears, concerns, emotional life, family, marriage, children, school, job, studies, finances, career, habits and all the things that are holding you back from God's best for your life. The Bible has all the practical guidelines you need for living a successful life.

"Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness."

1 Peter 2:2-3 NLT

Jesus encourages us to come to God confidently in prayer for anything we need or for any challenge we may be facing. Pray with confidence and boldness, fully expecting God to answer your prayers because you are now one of His children.

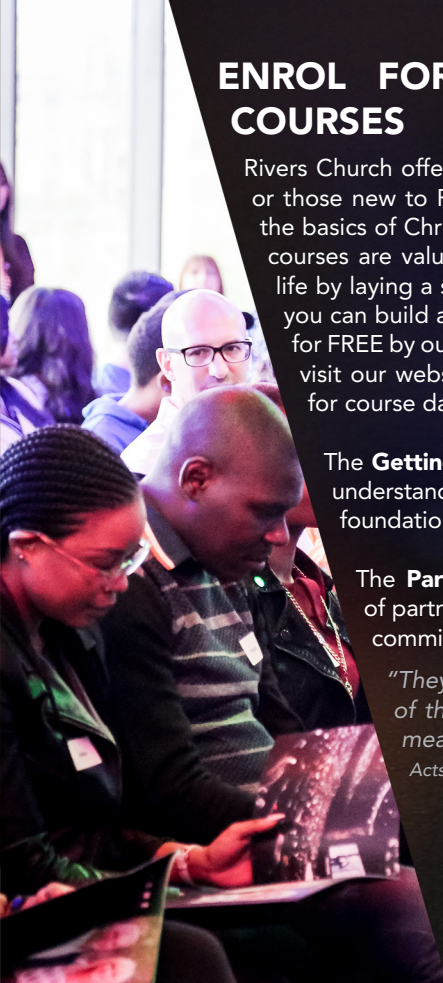


"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."

Luke 11:9-10 NIV

REMEMBER: GOD ANSWERS PRAYER!





ENROL FOR OUR FOUNDATIONAL COURSES

Rivers Church offers two courses designed for new believers or those new to Rivers who would like to learn more about the basics of Christianity and how to grow in the faith. Both courses are valuable in helping you integrate into church life by laying a solid foundation of Christianity upon which you can build and progress in your faith. They are offered for FREE by our pastoral team throughout the year. Please visit our website or enquire at the Information Counter for course dates.

The **Getting Started** course will help you gain a basic understanding of Christianity and help you lay a strong foundation of faith from the start.

The **Partnership** course highlights the importance of partnering with the local church and becoming a committed member.

"They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers."

Acts 2:42 MSG



STAY HUNGRY FOR GOD

Often, when we have tasted the goodness of God and God has begun to work in our lives, we can lose our appetite for spiritual things and lose our hunger for God. People who are hungry tend to eat. If we don't eat then we need to be spoon-fed or put on a drip. Healthy people eat, grow and stay healthy. Don't allow anything to dampen your appetite for God, His Word or His presence and church services. If you stay hungry for God you will grow and become mature and strong in Christ.

"Let me put this question to you: How did your new life begin? Was it by working your heads off to please God? Or was it by responding to God's Message to you? Are you going to continue this craziness? For only crazy people would think they could complete by their own efforts what was begun by God. If you weren't smart enough or strong enough to begin it, how do you suppose you could perfect it? Did you go through this whole painful learning process for nothing? It is not yet a total loss, but it certainly will be if you keep this up!"

Galatians 3:2-4 MSG

If you stay planted in the church and established in God then you are sure to grow and be all God has intended you to be.

"The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God."

Psalms 92:12-13 NIV

REMEMBER: FLOURISHING CAN ONLY COME THROUGH PLANTING

When we stay plugged into church and planted in the house of God we are promised a flourishing life.



SIGN UP FOR WATER BAPTISM

One of the important things that should follow a commitment to Christ is baptism in water. This is an outward sign of your inward decision and is the true test of whether you have given your life fully to Christ or only raised your hand because you had a need. Baptism is the commitment to go on with God and be all that He wants you to be. We encourage you to take this step as it is a definite spiritual transition to your next phase in Christianity.

"With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day."

Acts 2:40-41 NIV



"We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

Romans 6:4 NIV



BECOME PLANTED IN CHURCH

Many make a decision for Christ but don't remain planted in the soil of the house of God. Like a plant we cannot survive if we are uprooted from our spiritual nourishment. Planting comes through partnering with the church and volunteering our time, talents and treasure for the building up of the church. The person who is involved rarely falls away from Christ. Enquire online, at the Information Counter or on a response card about joining Rivers Church.

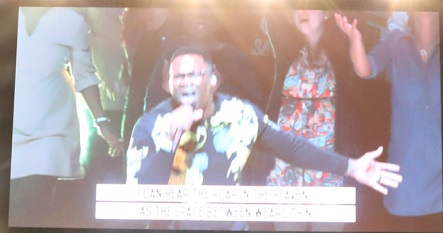
"But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers."

Psalm 1:2-3 NIV



WISDOM

WISDOM



WISDOM



TRUST GOD WITH YOUR WHOLE LIFE

God has awesome plans for your life and has had His eye on you from before you were even born. Believe that God is good, and that He wants to be good to you. Believe and fully trust that God wants to bless you and help you in every area of your life. Pray and ask for your needs to be met.

“O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. You hem me in – behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.”

Psalm 139:1-5, 13-18 NIV

WISDOM

RESOURCE YOURSELF

Now that you have made a decision to walk with God, you will need to get as much input as you can. What we put into our lives is what we will get out.

The Bible says:

"A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks."

Luke 6:45 NIV



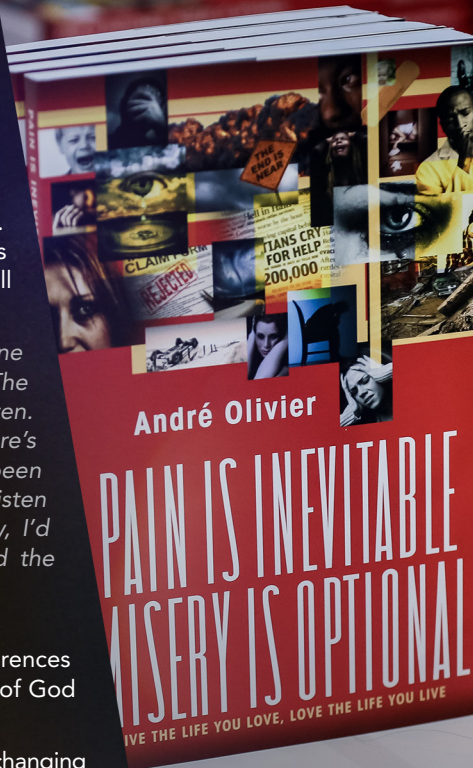
The Rivers Resource Centre carefully selects materials that will help you grow in faith and the knowledge of God. There are several books by Pastor André, Pastor Wilma and other international authors and speakers that will help you live successfully and keep you motivated to serve God fully. There is also a great range of message CDs and DVDs by the Senior Pastors that will equip and inspire you.

"Does anyone care, God? Is anyone listening and believing a word of it?" The point is, before you trust, you have to listen. But unless Christ's Word is preached, there's nothing to listen to. But haven't there been plenty of opportunities for Israel to listen and understand what's going on? Plenty, I'd say. Preachers' voices have gone 'round the world..."

Romans 10:16-18 MSG

Make sure you attend church and our conferences regularly to receive as much of the Word of God as possible.

We wish you an exciting, fruitful and life-changing walk with the Lord Jesus Christ and a wonderful experience of growing in His church.



André Olivier

PAIN IS INEVITABLE
MISERY IS OPTIONAL
LOVE THE LIFE YOU LOVE, LOVE THE LIFE YOU LIVE

THE LIFE OF RIVERS CHURCH

Connect Groups

Discipleship College

Sisters - Women's Ministry

Kidszone Children's Church

Youth

Young Adults

Relate Singles' Ministry

The Rivers Foundation

CONFERENCES (SANDTON)

Men's Conference

Youth and Young Adults Conference

Sisters of Africa Women's Conference

Kids Africa Conference

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To inspire faith and hope and to
shape the spiritual and social
architecture through the Word.

WORSHIP | REACH | CONNECT | VOLUNTEER







HOPE

and to shape the

SPIRITUAL SOCIAL

ARCHITECTURE

★★ through The World ★★

RIVERS.

CHURCH

SANDTON

Cnr South & Middle Roads, Morningside, Sandton, South Africa

KYALAMI

4A, Kyalami Business Park, Kyalami Blvd, Midrand, South Africa

CENTURION

Ster Kinekor, Irene Village Mall, Centurion, South Africa

DURBAN NORTH

No. 2 Spathodia Place, Cnr Malacca Road, Glenhills, Durban North, South Africa

BALLITO

6 Gourly Road, Ballito, KZN, South Africa

Full Children's Church programme held during ALL services.
Communion held once a month during ALL weekend services.

Visit www.rivers.church to view our current service times,
and to order great resources by Ps André & Wilma.

Watch Ps André on Life by Design.

Visit www.rivers.church/lbd for our current broadcast schedule and
for more information about this ministry.