

# Genesis

## The Beginning

**1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

<sup>3</sup>And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

<sup>6</sup>And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." <sup>7</sup>So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

<sup>9</sup>And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

<sup>11</sup>Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

<sup>14</sup>And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, <sup>18</sup>to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

<sup>20</sup>And God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky." <sup>21</sup>So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every

winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." <sup>23</sup>And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

<sup>24</sup>And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals,<sup>a</sup> and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

<sup>27</sup>So God created mankind in his own image,

in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

<sup>29</sup>Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. <sup>30</sup>And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

<sup>31</sup>God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

**2** Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

<sup>2</sup>By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. <sup>3</sup>Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

## Adam and Eve

<sup>4</sup>This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

<sup>a</sup> 26 Probable reading of the original Hebrew text (see Syriac); Masoretic Text *the earth*

<sup>5</sup>Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth<sup>a</sup> and no plant had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground, <sup>6</sup>but streams<sup>b</sup> came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD God formed a man<sup>c</sup> from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

<sup>8</sup>Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. <sup>9</sup>The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

<sup>10</sup>A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. <sup>11</sup>The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. <sup>12</sup>(The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin<sup>d</sup> and onyx are also there.) <sup>13</sup>The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush.<sup>e</sup> <sup>14</sup>The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; <sup>17</sup>but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

<sup>18</sup>The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

<sup>19</sup>Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup>So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

But for Adam<sup>f</sup> no suitable helper was found. <sup>21</sup>So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs<sup>g</sup> and then closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup>Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib<sup>h</sup> he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup>The man said,

“This is now bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
she shall be called ‘woman,’  
for she was taken out of man.”

<sup>24</sup>That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

<sup>25</sup>Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

## The Fall

**3** Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

<sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

<sup>4</sup>“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

<sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

<sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

<sup>10</sup>He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

<sup>11</sup>And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

<sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

<sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup>So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock  
and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly  
and you will eat dust  
all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>And I will put enmity  
between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring<sup>i</sup> and hers;  
he will crush<sup>j</sup> your head,  
and you will strike his heel.”

<sup>16</sup>To the woman he said,

“I will make your pains in childbearing  
very severe;  
with painful labor you will give birth to  
children.

Your desire will be for your husband,  
and he will rule over you.”

<sup>a</sup> 5 Or *land*; also in verse 6 <sup>b</sup> 6 Or *mist* <sup>c</sup> 7 The Hebrew for *man* (*adam*) sounds like and may be related to the Hebrew for *ground* (*adamah*); it is also the name *Adam* (see verse 20). <sup>d</sup> 12 Or *good*; *pearls* <sup>e</sup> 13 Possibly southeast Mesopotamia <sup>f</sup> 20 Or *the man* <sup>g</sup> 21 Or *took part of the man’s side* <sup>h</sup> 22 Or *part* <sup>i</sup> 15 Or *seed* <sup>j</sup> 15 Or *strike*

<sup>17</sup>To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it.’

“Cursed is the ground because of you;  
through painful toil you will eat food  
from it  
all the days of your life.

<sup>18</sup>It will produce thorns and thistles for you,  
and you will eat the plants of the field.

<sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your brow  
you will eat your food  
until you return to the ground,  
since from it you were taken;  
for dust you are  
and to dust you will return.”

<sup>20</sup>Adam<sup>a</sup> named his wife Eve,<sup>b</sup> because she would become the mother of all the living.

<sup>21</sup>The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. <sup>22</sup>And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” <sup>23</sup>So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. <sup>24</sup>After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side<sup>c</sup> of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

**Cain and Abel**

**4** Adam<sup>a</sup> made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain.<sup>d</sup> She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth<sup>e</sup> a man.” <sup>2</sup>Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. <sup>3</sup>In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. <sup>4</sup>And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup>but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

<sup>6</sup>Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? <sup>7</sup>If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

<sup>8</sup>Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.”<sup>f</sup> While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

<sup>9</sup>Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

<sup>10</sup>The LORD said, “What have you done?”

Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. <sup>11</sup>Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. <sup>12</sup>When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”

<sup>13</sup>Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is more than I can bear. <sup>14</sup>Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

<sup>15</sup>But the LORD said to him, “Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him.

<sup>16</sup>So Cain went out from the LORD’s presence and lived in the land of Nod,<sup>h</sup> east of Eden.

<sup>17</sup>Cain made love to his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch. Cain was then building a city, and he named it after his son Enoch. <sup>18</sup>To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad was the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael was the father of Methushael, and Methushael was the father of Lamech.

<sup>19</sup>Lamech married two women, one named Adah and the other Zillah. <sup>20</sup>Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock. <sup>21</sup>His brother’s name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play stringed instruments and pipes. <sup>22</sup>Zillah also had a son, Tubal-Cain, who forged all kinds of tools out of<sup>i</sup> bronze and iron. Tubal-Cain’s sister was Naamah.

<sup>23</sup>Lamech said to his wives,

“Adah and Zillah, listen to me;  
wives of Lamech, hear my words.  
I have killed a man for wounding me,  
a young man for injuring me.

<sup>24</sup>If Cain is avenged seven times,  
then Lamech seventy-seven times.”

<sup>25</sup>Adam made love to his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth,<sup>j</sup> saying, “God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him.” <sup>26</sup>Seth also had a son, and he named him Enosh.

At that time people began to call on<sup>k</sup> the name of the LORD.

**From Adam to Noah**

**5** This is the written account of Adam’s family line.

When God created mankind, he made them in the likeness of God. <sup>2</sup>He created them male and female and blessed them. And he named them “Mankind”<sup>l</sup> when they were created.

<sup>3</sup>When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth. <sup>4</sup>After Seth was born, Adam lived 800 years and had other sons and

<sup>a</sup> 20,1 Or *The man*    <sup>b</sup> 20 Eve probably means *living*.    <sup>c</sup> 24 Or *placed in front*    <sup>d</sup> 1 Cain sounds like the Hebrew for *brought forth* or *acquired*.    <sup>e</sup> 1 Or *have acquired*    <sup>f</sup> 8 Samaritan Pentateuch, Septuagint, Vulgate and Syriac; Masoretic Text does not have “Let’s go out to the field.”  
<sup>g</sup> 15 Septuagint, Vulgate and Syriac; Hebrew *Very well*    <sup>h</sup> 16 *Nod* means *wandering* (see verses 12 and 14).    <sup>i</sup> 22 Or *who instructed all who work in*    <sup>j</sup> 25 Seth probably means *granted*.    <sup>k</sup> 26 Or *to proclaim*    <sup>l</sup> 2 Hebrew *adam*

# Table of Weights and Measures

	BIBLICAL UNIT	APPROXIMATE AMERICAN EQUIVALENT	APPROXIMATE METRIC EQUIVALENT
<b>Weights</b>	talent (60 minas)	75 pounds	34 kilograms
	mina (50 shekels)	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ pounds	560 grams
	shekel (2 bekas)	$\frac{2}{5}$ ounce	11.5 grams
	pim ( $\frac{2}{3}$ shekel)	$\frac{1}{4}$ ounce	7.8 grams
	beka (10 gerahs)	$\frac{1}{5}$ ounce	5.7 grams
	gerah	$\frac{1}{50}$ ounce	0.6 gram
	daric	$\frac{1}{3}$ ounce	8.4 grams
<b>Length</b>	cubit	18 inches	45 centimeters
	span	9 inches	23 centimeters
	handbreadth	3 inches	7.5 centimeters
	stadion (pl. stadia)	600 feet	183 meters
<b>Capacity</b> <i>Dry Measure</i>	cor [homer] (10 ephahs)	6 bushels	220 liters
	letheh (5 ephahs)	3 bushels	110 liters
	ephah (10 omers)	$\frac{3}{5}$ bushel	22 liters
	seah ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ephah)	7 quarts	7.5 liters
	omer ( $\frac{1}{10}$ ephah)	2 quarts	2 liters
	cab ( $\frac{1}{18}$ ephah)	1 quart	1 liter
<b>Liquid Measure</b>	bath (1 ephah)	6 gallons	22 liters
	hin ( $\frac{1}{6}$ bath)	1 gallon	3.8 liters
	log ( $\frac{1}{72}$ bath)	$\frac{1}{3}$ quart	0.3 liter

The figures of the table are calculated on the basis of a shekel equaling 11.5 grams, a cubit equaling 18 inches and an ephah equaling 22 liters. The quart referred to is either a dry quart (slightly larger than a liter) or a liquid quart (slightly smaller than a liter), whichever is applicable. The ton referred to in the footnotes is the American ton of 2,000 pounds. These weights are calculated relative to the particular commodity involved. Accordingly, the same measure of capacity in the text may be converted into different weights in the footnotes.

This table is based upon the best available information, but it is not intended to be mathematically precise; like the measurement equivalents in the footnotes, it merely gives approximate amounts and distances. Weights and measures differed somewhat at various times and places in the ancient world. There is uncertainty particularly about the ephah and the bath; further discoveries may shed more light on these units of capacity.

# Getting to Know God

God created you because he wants a relationship with you. He loves you. He wants you to know him personally and intimately, not just know about him. Through God's written Word (the Bible), and through his only Son (Jesus), God reveals that he wants you to enjoy a life that's in line with his purpose and destiny for you. He wants to be a nurturing and powerful presence in your life, not just an idea in your head. Knowing him means receiving his love. Following him means following his leadership. And let's tell it like it is: Accepting that leadership will affect your lifestyle. As you come to know God, he no longer is a concept simply to be believed or disbelieved; he is a living reality who is known and followed along a pathway that leads to freedom.

According to the Bible, until you come to terms with Jesus, you haven't dealt with the issue that's most important in getting to know God. In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Through him, countless millions have come to know the Father, transforming their lives as well as the entire course of human history.

And Jesus continues to change history—one person at a time. He wants to change your life too. But he will not do so unless you ask him. It's not enough simply to agree intellectually with Jesus' claims. You must believe in him—believe that he is the Son of God sent to earth to pay the penalty for all sin, once for all, through his death on the cross—and ask him to come into your life.

Receiving this free gift of salvation is as simple as saying, "Jesus, I acknowledge my sin and your payment for it on the cross. I now ask you to forgive me, and I willingly give my life to you." At that moment, he will come into your innermost being and start you on a wonderful journey toward intimacy with God.

Another way to explain this is through a step-by-step "path of salvation." Many people find this sort of process helpful as they consider the important decision to give their life to Jesus. Here is a brief four-step system explaining why we all need the Lord and how we can go about making that decision. It includes key Scripture passages supporting each statement. You can look up these verses in the Bible if you'd like to read more of the context.

## *First:*

Realize that everyone needs to be saved. No one is righteous. We are all guilty of breaking God's law in some way and therefore already condemned and sentenced.

**Romans 3:19–20** "Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin."

## *Second:*

Understand that there is hope in Christ. Salvation does not come by keeping laws or being good or doing good works, but only through faith in Christ. All have sinned, but anyone who receives Christ can be forgiven and accepted by God as righteous.

**Romans 3:21–25** "But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished."

**Romans 5:8** "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

**Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

**Third:**

Know that God forgives and accepts unconditionally anyone who believes in Christ.

**Romans 8:1–2** “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.”

**Finally:**

Trust Christ in your heart and confess him as Lord with your mouth.

**Romans 10:9–10** “If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.”

Repeat aloud this prayer (or something similar—what you mean is what matters, not the exact words you use):

*I thank you, heavenly Father, for sending your own Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross and pay the penalty for sin. I now believe in him and accept him as my Lord. Thank you that I am saved in him.*

*In Jesus’ name, Amen.*

Some other helpful passages relating to the topic of salvation:

**Luke 18:9–14** “To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ‘Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: “God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.”

“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.’”

**John 1:12** “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

**John 3:16–18** “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”

**John 5:24** “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”

**John 20:31** “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

**Acts 10:43** “All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

**2 Corinthians 6:2** “For he says, ‘In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.’ I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.”

**Hebrews 11:6** “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

**1 John 1:9** “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

**1 John 5:13** “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.”

**Revelation 3:20** “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.”

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You may be wondering what kinds of practical steps you might take to guide you as you discover your personal path toward knowing God. Consider some of these ideas:

- Ask God to reveal himself to you if you’re not sure he’s there.
- Talk to people who display a genuine relationship with God—those who obviously love him and who live by a different set of principles.
- Spend time enjoying God’s creation.
- Listen to the stories of older people who have walked with God for a long time.
- Be a lover of truth, and don’t hesitate to raise questions about things many others seem to take for granted.
- Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. You can trust God’s “gentle whisper” to give you direction. If you lack understanding, ask him for it.
- Read what other believers have said about Christianity. Ask your Christian friends for a list of authors who have inspired them in their walk with God.
- Write down your questions, including those that occur to you as you read the Bible, and take them to a believer who will respect your search for the truth.
- Be aware that moments of doubts and questions are normal and legitimate as you discover your personal path of faith.
- Be alert to your presuppositions—the things you already believe—and your personal roadblocks, and try not to let them stand in the way of your discovery process.
- Keep a journal of your thoughts and feelings during your search.
- Determine to spend a specified time each day walking the pathway toward faith, and keep evaluating your progress.
- Act on what you decide.