

Celebrate Recovery Lesson 5 Turn

Principle 3: Consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.

"Happy are the meek." (Matthew 5:5)

Step 3: We made a decision to turn our lives and our wills over to the care of God.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God —this is your true and proper worship." (Romans 12:1)



Introduction

When you choose to live this principle, you consciously **choose to commit all your life and will to Christ's care and control**. How do you do that? **How do you turn your life and will over to your Higher Power, Jesus Christ?**

Turn

Trust, Understand, Repent, New Life This step ends with new life, but you must first take **three actions** before that life can be yours. You must trust, understand, and repent.

First let's talk about TRUST.

In Principle 3, you make the one-time decision to turn your life over to the care of God. It's your choice, not chance, that determines your destiny. And that decision only requires trust, putting your **faith** into action!

But what is faith? Faith is not a sense, sight, or reason. **Faith is simply taking God at His word!** And God's Word tells us in *Romans 10:9 (GNT)*: *"If you confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised him from death, you will be saved."*

For some people that's just way too simple. They want to make salvation much more difficult. But it isn't! **Our salvation, thank God, depends on God's love for us, not our love for Him.**

After you have decided to trust, **the next step is to UNDERSTAND.** Relying solely on our own understanding got most of us into recovery in the first place! After you make the decision to ask Jesus into your life, **you need to begin to seek His will for your life in all your decisions.** You need to get to know and understand Him and what He wants for your life.

Proverbs 3:5–6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

You see, our understanding is earthbound. It's human to the core. Limited finite. We, operate in a dimension totally unlike that of our Lord. He knows no such limitations. We see now; God sees forever!

It is not necessary for me to understand everything.

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First Corinthians 13:9–13 (GNT) tells us, “For our gifts of knowledge . . . are only partial; but when what is perfect comes, then what is partial will disappear. What we see now is like a dim image in a mirror; then we shall see face-to-face. What I know now is only partial; then it will be complete, as complete as God’s knowledge of me.”

Someday we will see Jesus face to face. The fog of interpretation will be lifted, and our understanding will be perfected.

Praise God that we do not need a perfect understanding of Him to **ask Jesus into our lives as our Lord and Savior.** Why? Because God does not lead you year by year. Not even day by day. **God directs your way step by step.**

R, stands for REPENT. (change of mind, no more planned sin)

Repentance is how you begin to enjoy the freedom of your loving relationship with God. True repentance affects our whole person and **changes our entire view of life.** Repentance is to take God’s point of view on our lives instead of our own.

To truly repent you need to do two things: First change your mind, a commitment on your part to stop your sin. second, turn toward God. The Bible has much to say about repentance:

(Mark 1:15, TLB) Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall.

(Ezekiel 18:30–31) Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Don’t let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God re-mold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all his demands and moves towards the goal of true maturity.” (Romans 12:2, PH)

Some of us repent of our sins more from a fear of punishment than from a real change of heart. But **repentance is not self-loathing; it is God-loving.** God isn’t looking forward to punishing you! **He is eagerly anticipating with open arms your turning toward Him.** Then when you have chosen to turn from your sin toward Him, He will joyously give to you a **NEW** life.

The new life that you will receive is the result of taking the three actions that we just covered: trusting, **understanding, and repenting.**

After you ask Jesus into your heart, you will have a new life! You will no longer be bound to your old sinful nature. You will receive a new loving nature dwelling within you from Christ.

God has declared you “not guilty,” and you no longer have to live under the power of sin! *Romans 3:22 (TLB) says it well: “Now God says he will accept and acquit us — declare us ‘not guilty’ if we trust Jesus Christ to take away our sins.”*

2 Corinthians 5:17 (GNT) says: “Anyone who is joined in Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come.”

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Wrap-Up

Again, the “turn” in Principle 3 includes three very important actions that lead to a new life in Christ: trusting, understanding, repenting.

The good news is, **turning your life over to Christ is a once-in-a-lifetime commitment. Once you accept Christ in your life, it’s a done deal. *Ephesians 1:13 says your salvation is “sealed.” You can’t lose it! It’s guaranteed by the Holy Spirit.***

The rest of the principle, however, turning your will over to Him, requires daily recommitment! You can begin by going to your Bible regularly, opening it prayerfully, reading it expectantly, and living it joyfully!

If you haven’t asked Jesus Christ to be your Higher Power, the Lord and Savior of your life, I encourage you to do so this evening. What are you waiting for? **Let’s do the salvation Prayer**

Pray this prayer.

Dear Lord Jesus, I Love you, I need you, I ask you to please be my Lord and Savior. Come into me and be my friend. I know what you did for me that I may have eternal life, how you died for my sins that I may be forgiven. Please forgive me of my sins.

I Repent and turn away from my sins Lord. For this I will need your help, please help me. I ask that you send the Holy Spirit to live in me as my friend, to guide me in my life.

I trust you Lord Jesus, my thirst is to follow you, please lead me. Lord, give me a new heart, and put a new spirit within me.

Write About it

1. What is stopping you from asking Jesus Christ into your heart as your Lord and Savior?

2. How has relying on your “own understanding” caused problems in your life? Be specific.

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3. What does "repent" mean to you?

4. What does the declaration of "not guilty" found in Romans 3:22 mean to you?

5. When you turn your life over to your Higher Power, Jesus Christ, you have a "new life" (see 2 Corinthians 5:17).
What does that "new life" mean to you?

6. What does the Principle 3 prayer mean to you?