

Dear Albena,

Thank you for writing us Christian Questions Radio. You asked what it meant to accept Jesus as Lord of your life. You specifically wanted to know if you had to accept and agree to obey Him and fulfill the commandments of God.

Before we accept Jesus as Lord of our lives, we must first acknowledge that Jesus is our Savior. He died for our sins, so that all who ever lived will have the opportunity for everlasting life. When we think about the price He paid, our hearts are filled with gratitude as we long to follow in our Master's footsteps and be with Him in heaven. Jesus gave his disciples the formula for doing just that. When they wanted to know what they needed to do to enter into the kingdom, Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24) Denying oneself is more than just obeying the commandments of God. It is the renouncing of self-will and earthly interests and ambitions. Taking up the cross means that we accept with thanksgiving the trials, difficulties, and disappointments that come our way, knowing that these experiences are for our highest spiritual development. The Apostle Paul tells us that our spiritual act of worship is to live a holy life, pleasing to God. "Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:1-2)

Living a life of holiness is a life lived for God and has many spiritual rewards, both now and in the future. When we are connected with God through prayer and the study of his word, we attain strength from God's holy spirit. Our spiritual food is His promises. "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the Divine nature." (2 Peter 1:4) God has promised that he will never leave nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5), that He who began a good work in us will perform it (Philippians 1:6), and that we can come boldly to the throne of grace and obtain mercy and strength in time of need (Hebrews 4:16). These are just a few of the many promises that sustain us on our Christian walk. But the promise for the future is even grander! Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:1-3) This promise of eternal glory outweighs any of the momentary troubles of our present lives (2 Corinthians 4:17). "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." (1 Corinthians 2:9) With these awesome promises to uplift and encourage us, "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised." (Hebrews 10:23) And, if we remain faithful, we will be with Him in glory. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." (Revelation 2:10)

We hope we have answered your question as to what it means to accept Jesus as Lord of your life and the joy that comes with that acceptance. Please write us again.

Sincerely,  
Christian Questions Radio