

ROOKIE CHRISTIAN | FACT SHEET

What Just Happened?

What have I just done? If you have recently received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, that might be just the question you are asking yourself! It is not unusual for a person to wonder if this is all real... Perhaps I was just at a vulnerable moment. I don't feel any different. Maybe I got talked into something I didn't understand and really didn't want to do? Have I just made a fool of myself?

Perhaps I was just at a vulnerable moment? You mean like those times when we do things that violate our own principles and we know to be wrong? Temptations strike in vulnerable moments. But let's see... you confessed your sin to God, you asked him for forgiveness, you asked him to enable you to live a better life... so, how does that make you foolish, exactly? Maybe you were just sick and tired of living the way you were living! Hadn't you been thinking about this for a while? Think maybe God was helping you dream a bigger dream for your life?

Faith and feelings aren't necessarily the same thing. The question is: Are you trusting Christ—and only Christ—to save you? If you aren't feeling all tingly, that's OK. Salvation is supernatural, but it's not magic.

You began a journey; you didn't instantly arrive at the destination. Just as you had to grow up after being born the first time, you have to grow in the faith after being born again.

Jesus said the journey would be hard. "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few" (Matthew 7:13-14). Don't be startled by the difficulty. Part of the definition of an adventure is that it includes difficulty.

Instead of having second thoughts, some people can experience something like a religious high. A load has been taken off your shoulders, you are experiencing a new kind of joy from the Holy Spirit.

But be careful — when we get excited, we can feel exalted. Peter told the Lord he would never fail him, but it was Peter who soon denied him. This self-confidence is unaware of its own sin and of the constant need to depend on the Lord. "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18).

Instead, the closer to the light we get, the more the dirt shows up. So what does it say if we're unaware of the dirt?

Humility and dependence on the Lord are crucial.

Prepare to be tested. The devil will tell you what a fool you've been. Brace up for it. Jesus was tempted in the wilderness; we shouldn't expect better treatment than the Lord received. You may have a season of testing of your own. You may face criticism or mockery. You may lose some friends. Keep reading your Bible and praying. Get encouragement from your Christian friends. Stay true to the Lord!

Now Read: Luke 9:18-26. What did Jesus say the disciple's life would be like?

