

1

GOD LOVES YOU AND CREATED YOU TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

You were created with value and worth!
God wants your life to count.



God created you.

In Psalm 139:13-14 the Bible says, "You made all the delicate inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!"

God loves you.

"For God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

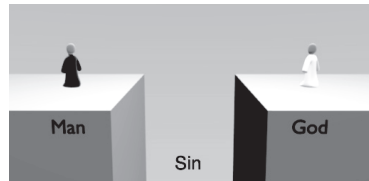
God wants you to know Him.

"And this is the way to have eternal life — to know You, the only true God and Jesus Christ, the one You sent to earth" (John 17:3).

2

WHY IS IT THAT PEOPLE DON'T HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

When we ignore or reject God, it keeps us from having a personal relationship with Him (John 17:3). This is part of what the Bible calls sin and sin keeps us from having a personal relationship with God.



What is sin?

"Knowing what is right to do and then not doing it is also sin" (James 4:17). You see, God is holy and perfect... and we are not. Sin not only means doing wrong or failing to do all God wants, it is also our attitude of ignoring or rejecting God.

Who has sinned?

Everyone. "Yes they have all sinned; all fall short of God's glorious ideal..." (Romans 3:23).

What happens when we sin?

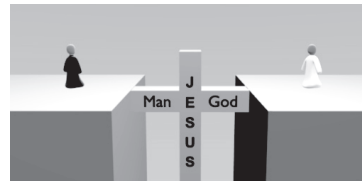
"But the trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God" (Isaiah 59:2).

"For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). Sin causes a gap between us and God. Death, which means eternal separation from God, is the penalty of our sin.

3

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION TO OUR SEPARATION TO GOD?

Only through Jesus Christ can you have a relationship with God.



Why Jesus Christ?

In John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the Way – yes and the Truth and the Life. No one can get to the Father except by means of Me." It is only through Jesus Christ that we have relationship with God.

Why did Jesus have to die?

"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit" (1 Peter 3:18). Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sins, so we might be forgiven.

Why did Jesus rise from the dead?

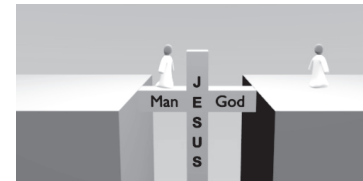
Jesus rose from the dead to prove He could give us eternal life — by coming back to life, Jesus dealt with death and our sins once and for all, and made a way for us back to the Father.

"Christ died for our sins, He was buried, and He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by more than 500 of His followers at one time..." (1 Corinthians 15:3-6).

4

HOW CAN YOU BEGIN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

You must personally respond by trusting Jesus Christ who becomes your Savior and Lord.



You respond with trust in Christ.

In Ephesians 2:8-9 the Bible says, "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."

You respond by turning from sin (this is called repentance):

"To all who received Him, He gave the right to become children (a son or daughter) of God. All they needed to do was to trust Him to save them" (John 1:12).

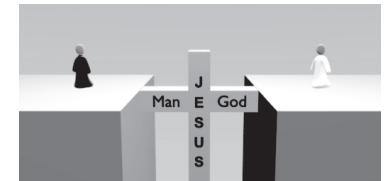
Receiving Christ means:

- Turning to God from your own way of living.
- Inviting Christ to come into your life and trusting Him to forgive your sin.
- Allowing God to direct your life.
- Receiving Jesus Christ is not just an emotional experience; nor is it just agreeing with your mind that Jesus is the Son of God. It means total trust, an act of your will.

5

WHERE WOULD YOU PUT YOURSELF IN THIS ILLUSTRATION? WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE?

You can begin your personal relationship with God by receiving Jesus Christ by faith.



You can express your faith (trust) through prayer.

Prayer is simply talking to God. He knows what you mean even when it is difficult to express yourself. You may use the following words, or your own: "Heavenly Father, I know that my sin has separated me from You. Thank you for loving me and sending Jesus to pay the price for my sin as He died and rose again. Today I turn away from my sin and receive complete forgiveness, as I surrender my life to You as my Lord, in order to live for You and Your kingdom. In Jesus' name, amen!"

Can you say this to God and mean it?

If you can, pray right now and trust Jesus to forgive your sin and come into your life as He has promised.

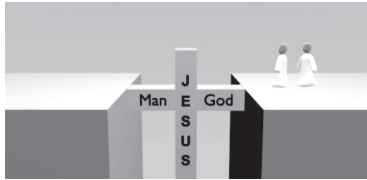
Becoming God's son or daughter.

When we give our lives to God, we become born again as our spirit comes alive in Him for the first time, and we begin to discover how to live life as a son or daughter with a loving Heavenly Father. "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father (Daddy, Daddy)." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children (sons and daughters) of God" (Romans 8:15-16).

6

WHAT CAN YOU LOOK FORWARD TO ON EARTH?

You can now expect to begin to see the things of God's reign. His reign comes to, in and through us.



This means:

- You will grow in seeing what God is saying to you, for you and for others around you.
- You can expect to enter into, experience, enjoy and grow in the reign of God in your life.
- John 3:3-6

God's Kingdom.

God's Kingdom is His active rule and reign, on earth as it is in heaven. He is like a loving Father with His sons and daughters.

When you receive and live in, and rely on God's (kingdom) ways and not your own ways, you will experience the power and authority of God transforming you into the fullness of who He created you to be!

The extent and depth of your surrender will determine the extent of your transformation, as you continue to grow in Him.

7

WHAT'S NEXT?

With your trust and faith in Jesus Christ begins a life long relationship with Him.

God commits Himself to you:

- God assures you that Jesus Christ has come into your life. Jesus says, "I am in my Father and You in Me and I in you." (John 14:20)
- God will never leave you. "I will never fail you nor forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)
- God completely forgives your sin. "For He forgave all your sins and blotted out the charges proven against you." (Colossians 2:13-14)
- God assures you that you have eternal life. "I have written this to you who believe in the Son of God so you might know that you have eternal life." (1 John 5:13)
- God gives you His Holy Spirit to enable you to live the Christian life. "Let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives." (Galatians 5:25)

You commit yourself to God.

In Colossians 2:6-7 the Bible says, "And now just as you trusted Christ to save you, trust Him, too, for each day's problems; live in vital union with Him. Let your roots grow down into Him and draw up nourishment from Him. See that you go on growing in the Lord, and become strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with joy and thanksgiving for all He has done" (TLB).

Do not depend upon feeling.

No matter how you feel, God always remains committed to you. The promises of God's Word, the Bible, is the authority we stand on. You must rely on God's Word rather than feelings. Good feelings may come and go, but the fact of God's love for you and forgiveness remains constant. As we do this, we will begin to see our lives authentically change as we grow in Him.

8

KEEP GROWING IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Go to God daily in prayer
Philippians 4:6-7

Read the Bible often to feed your spirit
2 Timothy 3:14-17

Obeys God moment by moment
Luke 6:46-48

Worship in a local church regularly
Hebrews 10:24-25

Tell others about Jesus
1 Peter 3:15-16

Holy Spirit – Let Him direct your life
John 14:26

Now you are able to share your most important relationship with others.

"It is God Himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ago He planned that we should spend these lives helping others" (Ephesians 2:10).

Discipleship.

Whenever possible, look for someone to disciple you into Christ. The healthiest growing believers are those who get disciplined, and walk out life with someone more mature.

What is a good Bible to read?

If you are looking for a good Bible we would recommend that you consider the New King James Version (NKJV). You can find this Bible and others online at biblegateway.com or on your mobile device on the YouVersion App.

If you would like to connect with us:

Visit our website at lifeconnection.ca and join our Life Connection Church facebook page.

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NOTES

YOUR MOST IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP

