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God Loves You
God's Plan For Your Life

How to Know God Personally

What does it take to begin a relationship with God? Devote yourself to unselfish religious deeds? Become a better person so that God will accept you?

You may be surprised that none of those things will work. But God has made it very clear in the Bible how we can know Him.

The following principles will explain how you can personally begin a relationship with God, right now, through Jesus Christ...

Principle 1:

God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life.

God's Love

"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."

God's Plan

[Christ speaking] "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly" [that it might be full and meaningful].

Why is it that most people are not experiencing the abundant life? Because...

You need Christian Fellowship -- You should attend church or meet with other Christians in a Fellowship regularly so that your faith can be strengthened by the Teaching of God's Word, and so you can grow spiritually and be encouraged by the fellowship of other Christians. This Fellowship is where you can go to express your love, faithfulness, and worship to God. Fellowship is also where you can learn what it means to follow Jesus and where Pastors, Teachers, and other Believers can help you and encourage your faith. The Bible warns us not to absent ourselves from Fellowship attendance, because we need the strength and encouragement it brings. [Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together as believers, as is the habit of some people, but admonishing \(warning, urging, and encouraging\) one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching. \(Hebrews 10:25\).](#)

Keep Looking To Jesus -- You must understand that your Salvation is based entirely upon The Work that The Lord Jesus has accomplished in your heart. Jesus promises to keep you, so just Keep Looking To Jesus. As a new Christian, you must grow in your relationship with God and deepen your faith, so that discouragement, temptation, or trials will never cause you to lose focus and drift away from God. The Bible says that Jesus will one day present you before God, Holy and Unblemished. So Child of God in ALL you do; Keep Looking To Jesus!

You need to read The Bible daily -- The Bible is God's Word, and as you read from it every day, it will cause you to grow spiritually (2 Timothy 2:15). As you study His Written Word (start with the Gospel of John), He will strengthen your faith, speak to your heart, and give you guidance and direction for every need and decision in your life. God Promises that He will watch over His Word in order to see to it that it is performed. God declares that He has elevated His Word above His Own Name. Trust God's Word. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalms 119:105).

You need to Pray every day -- Prayer is vital to your spiritual growth. God is your Heavenly Father, and He wants to hear from you and have daily fellowship with you. Not only does He Promise to answer your Prayers, but as you Pray He will also provide guidance and spiritual strength. The Bible tells us to "Pray continually," that is to Pray faithfully every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Principle 2:

All of us sin and our sin has separated us from God.

We Are Sinful

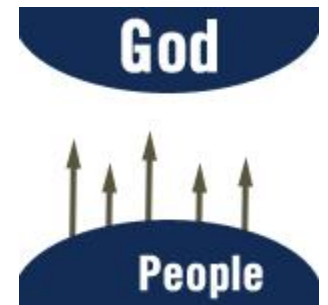
"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

We were created to have fellowship with God; but, because of our stubborn self-will, we chose to go our own independent way, and fellowship with God was broken. This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference, is evidence of what the Bible calls sin.

We Are Separated

"The wages of sin is death"
[spiritual separation from God].

This diagram illustrates that God is Holy and people are sinful. A great gulf separates us. The arrows illustrate that we are continually trying to reach God and the abundant life through our own efforts, such as a good life, philosophy, or religion -- but we inevitably fail.



The third law explains the only way to bridge this gulf...

Principle 3:

Jesus Christ is God's only provision for our sin. Through Him we can know and experience God's love and plan for our life.

He Died in Our Place

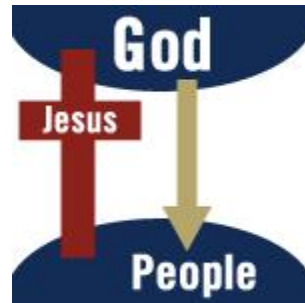
"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

He Rose From the Dead

"Christ died for our sins...He was buried...He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures...He appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred..."

He Is the Only Way to God

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.'"



This diagram illustrates that God has bridged the gulf which separates us from Him by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place to pay the penalty for our sins.

It is not enough just to know these three principles...



The following explains how you can receive Christ:

You can receive Christ right now by faith through prayer

Prayer is talking to God. God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. Would you like to Pray right now and ask Jesus to come into your life? If this Prayer expresses the desire of your heart, then you can Pray this Prayer right now and Christ will come into your life, as He promised. Just repeat after me if this expresses your heart's desire;

"Lord Jesus, I need You --- Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins --- I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord --- Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life --- Lord please take control of my life --- Make me the kind of person You want me to be--- Thank You for hearing my Prayer and for forgiving my sin" In Jesus' Name I Pray --- AMEN.

God's Word says;

Because if you acknowledge and confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and in your heart believe that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart a person believes and so is justified, and with the mouth he confesses and confirms his salvation. Romans 10:9-10

Jesus Died For You!



Will You Live For Him?

Principle 4:

We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's Love and plan for our lives.

We Must Receive Christ

"As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name."

We Receive Christ Through Faith

"By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

When We Receive Christ, We Experience a New Birth

We Receive Christ by Personal Invitation

[Christ speaking] "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him."

Receiving Christ involves turning to God from self (repentance) and trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive our sins and to make us what He wants us to be. Just to agree intellectually that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for your sins is not enough. Nor is it enough to have an emotional experience. You receive Jesus Christ by faith, as an act of the will.

These two circles represent two kinds of lives:



Self-Directed Life

Self is on the throne, directing decisions and actions (represented by the dots), often resulting in frustration. Jesus is outside the life.



Christ-Directed Life

Jesus is in the life and on the throne. Self is yielding to Jesus. The person sees Jesus' influence and direction in their life.

Which circle best describes your life?

Which circle would you like to have represent your life?