

KNOWING GOD *Personally*

This four point outline explains how you can come to know God. It is the way that God Himself has given to us, so it is relevant for everyone.

1 GOD LOVES YOU AND CREATED YOU TO HAVE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.

God loves you

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
JOHN 3:16 (chapter 3, verse 16)

God wants you to know Him.

Jesus Christ said: "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." JOHN 10:10b

"And this is eternal life: that men may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent."
JOHN 17:3

Why is it that most people do not have this kind of relationship with God?

2 MAN IS SINFUL AND GUILTY BEFORE GOD, WHO IS PERFECT AND JUST. SIN HAS SEPERATED MAN FROM GOD AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEM IS BROKEN.

What is sin?

God created us to know and love Him. But we have failed to love and obey God and have gone our own way. We show this independence by being hostile or apathetic towards God. This attitude is what the Bible calls sin. (ROMANS 1:18-21 and ISAIAH 53:5,6)

Who has sinned?

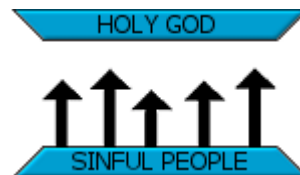
Jesus Christ said: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." ROMANS 3:23

What is the consequence of sin?

"For the wages of sin is death." ROMANS 6:23a

The death spoken of here is spiritual separation from God.

This diagram illustrates the fact that God is holy and man is sinful. A great gulf separates the two. The arrows indicate mankind trying to bridge this gulf in an attempt to find security and satisfaction through such things as wealth, religion or relationships. However, all attempts will eventually fail because they do not deal with the problem of sin.



The third point gives us the only answer to this problem...

3 JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S ONLY SOLUTION FOR MAN'S SIN. THROUGH HIM YOU CAN HAVE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

He died in our place

"For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God." 1 PETER 3:18a

"But God demonstrates His love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." ROMANS 5:8

He rose from the dead

Peter, one of the disciples, said: "God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact." ACTS 2:32

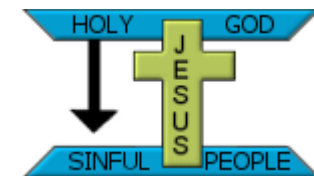
The resurrection of Jesus Christ shows us that:

- He is the Son of God. (ROMANS 1:4)
- God has accepted His death as the complete payment for our sins. (ACTS 13:34-39)

He is the only way to God

Jesus said: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." JOHN 14:6

We are condemned to death because of our sin; but God sent His son Jesus Christ to die on the cross in our place. Thus He has bridged the gulf that separates us from Him by dealing with the problem of sin. Therefore we can have a personal relationship with God and receive His forgiveness.



Knowing God personally is not just a matter of knowing these three points...

4

WE MUST EACH RESPOND TO JESUS CHRIST BY PLACING OUR TRUST IN HIM AS OUR SAVIOUR AND LORD. THEN WE CAN KNOW GOD PERSONALLY.

This response involves:

- AGREEING with God that we are sinful and deciding to turn from our sin. (REPENTANCE) ACTS 2:36-38
- TRUSTING Jesus Christ died for us completely because He died for our sins. (FAITH) ROMANS 10:9,10

The relationship is a gift from God and begins when we put our trust in Christ.

"For it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." EPHESIANS 2:8,9 (also TITUS 3:4,5)

The relationship is personal.

"Yet to all who receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God." JOHN 1:12

Knowing God personally must involve a decision of your will. These two circles represent two kinds of lives:

S – Self on the throne of the life



† – Christ outside the life



S – Self dethroned

† – Christ at the centre of the life

This circle illustrates a life where the relationship with God is broken. Such a life is under the judgment of God. (John 3:17,18)

This circle represents a person who has received God's forgiveness and willingly chooses to obey Jesus Christ as Lord.

Which circle better represents your life?

Which circle do you want to represent your life?

The following explains how you can place your trust in Jesus Christ...

You can place your trust in Jesus Christ by expressing your faith through prayer. (Prayer is simply talking to God)

God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. Here is a suggested prayer:

"Lord Jesus, I realise that I have been running my own life and have sinned against You. Thank You for dying for my sins. I want to be the kind of person You want me to be. I receive You as my Saviour and Lord. Thank You for giving me eternal life."

Could you say this to God and mean it?

If so, pray this prayer now, and you will become a child of God as He promised.

If not, or you are not sure, consider that you are responsible to God for your decision. (JOHN 3:18)

Did you place your trust in Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?

"Yet to all who receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God." JOHN 1:12

According to His promise in John 1:12, what happened to you?

The Bible says you have become a child of God. As His child:

- Jesus Christ is in your life by His Spirit and He will never leave you. (1 CORINTHIANS 12:13 and HEBREWS 13:5)
- Your sins are fully forgiven. (COLOSSIANS 2:13,14)
- You have been born into God's family. He is your Father and other believers are your brothers and sisters. (GALATIANS 3:26)
- You have begun that eternal relationship for which God created you. (JOHN 17:2,3 and JOHN 10:10)

How do you know that all this has really happened?

Because God gave us His promises and He can be trusted.

"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 JOHN 5:11-13

What if I don't feel any different?

Do not depend on feelings.



A train is pulled by the engine (**fact**), not the carriage (**feeling**). In the same way, put your trust in the facts of God's trustworthiness and His promises. The more fuel of **faith** (trust) that is put into the facts of God's promises the more His power will be released in your life. Do not allow your **faith** to depend on your **feelings**.

Suggestions for Christian growth.

- G** – Getting to know God by reading the Bible. (2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17) Start with the Gospel of John.
- R** – Responding to God in prayer. (PHILIPPIANS 4:6)
- O** – Obeying God moment by moment. (LUKE 6:46-49)
- W** – Walking in the power of the Holy Spirit. (GALATIANS 5:16; EPHESIANS 3:14-21 and 5:18)
- T** – Telling others about Jesus Christ through the way we live and our words. (MATTHEW 28:18-20; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-20; and EPHESIANS 4:1)
- H** – Having fellowship with other Christians. (HEBREWS 10:25 and ACTS 2:42-47)