

HOW TO KNOW GOD PERSONALLY

Each person can know God personally and intimately, as farfetched as it may appear. God very much wants to establish a personal, loving relationship with you and to prove he does, He has already put all the necessary things in place and sent out the invitation to you. He patiently waits for you to accept that invitation. Through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ you can experience the joy of forgiveness of your sins and the assurance of eternal life.

There is a big wall between God and you called ignorance of who God is and really knowing what God has done for you. As you read the following you can begin a life-changing intimacy and personal relationship with God.

There are 4 ways which will help you in discovering who God is and experience the abundant life He has promised.

1. God created you, loves you and wants you to know him personally and intimately.

God's Love is expressed in John 3:16

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

God's Plan is found in John 17:3

Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

2. Because we are separated from God by our sinful nature, actions and attitude, we cannot know Him intimately or experience His goodness and Love.

Mankind is Sinful

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God – Romans 3:23

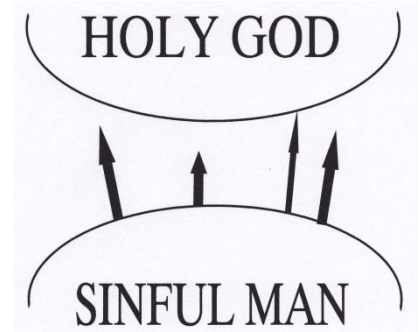
God created mankind to have fellowship with him. Man in stubborn self-will chose to go his own independent way and thereby broke fellowship with God. This active rebellion or passive indifference is what the Bible calls sin.

Man separates himself from God.

But your iniquities have made a separation between you and God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear. – Isaiah 59:2

The wages of sin is death. – Romans 6:23a

This drawing shows how we are separated from God by our sin, even though we try to reach God by ourselves.. A great chasm is between God and us. All that we try to do to bridge that gap by our own efforts, such as living a good life, tithing, philosophy or religion inevitably fails to reach God and establish a personal relationship with God.



3. Jesus Christ is God’s ONLY provision for man’s sin. Through Him alone we can know God personally and experience God’s love.

He died for us on the Cross so we won’t have to die eternally.

God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. – Romans 5:8

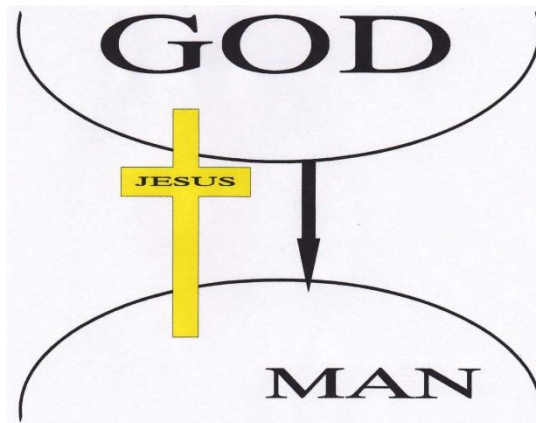
Jesus rose from the dead and is alive, ruling and reigning in Heaven.

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... - 1 Corinthians 15:3-6.

Jesus is the ONLY way to God.

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.” – John 14:6

This drawing shows God has bridged the chasm separating us from Him by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place to pay the penalty for our sins.



These three truths above we may know intellectually but that is not enough...

4. In order to know God personally and experience His love, each one of us must receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of our life.

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. – John 1:12

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, so that no one should boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9.

When We Receive Christ, We Experience a New Birth.

Read John 3:1-8 in your Bible.

We Receive Christ By Personal Invitation.

Jesus says: “ Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him. ” – Revelation 3:20

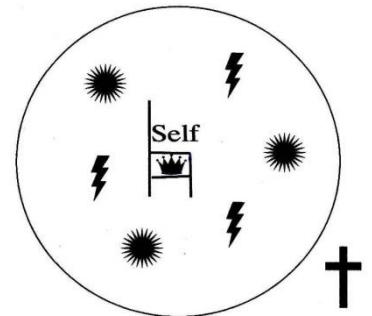
Repentance involves turning from self to God and receiving Christ and trusting Him to come into our lives to forgive us of our sins and to make us what He wants us to be. To agree intellectually that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died for us on the cross is not enough. Nor is it enough to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

The following drawings represent two kinds of lives:

THE SELF DIRECTED LIFE

Self is on the throne. Interests are directed by self, resulting in discord, frustration.

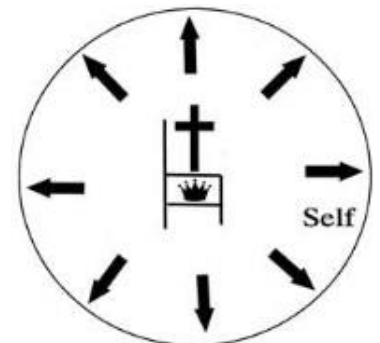
Christ is outside of life.



THE CHRIST CENTERED LIFE

CHRIST is on the throne - self is yielding to Christ

Interests are directed by CHRIST, resulting in harmony with God’s plan.



Which drawing best represents your life?

Which drawing would you like to have represent your life?

THE FOLLOWING EXPLAINS HOW YOU CAN RECEIVE CHRIST:

Right now you can receive Jesus Christ by Faith through Prayer.

(Prayer is simply talking with God.)

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

“Lord Jesus, I want to know you intimately. Thank You for dying for my sins on the cross. I hereby open my heart and life to You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving me of my sins and giving me eternal life. I hereby step off the throne of my life and want You be in charge of every part of my life and make me the person you want me to be.”

Has the desire of your heart been expressed in this prayer? If so, pray this prayer right now and Jesus will keep His promise to be your Savior and Lord.

How to Know That Christ Is in Your Life

Jesus promised in Revelation 3:20 that He will be in you and be your Savior and Lord, indeed your friend whom you can know personally. Jesus always keeps His promises. Your authority that God has answered your prayer is right in the Bible. In John 5:11-13 it says:

The witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.

The Bible promises Eternal Life to All Who Receive Jesus Christ.

You know that Jesus is your Savior and Lord by the promises in the Bible. Read John 14:6; 23. In the Gospel of John, chapter 6:40 we read Jesus’ own beautiful words: *“For the Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”* And in Hebrews 13:5 He promises never to leave us or forsake us.

Do Not Depend on Feelings

Not our feelings, but the promise of God’s Word, the Bible, is our authority. The Christian lives by faith (trust) in the trustworthiness of God himself and His Word. The following drawing shows the relationship among **fact** (God and His Word), **faith** (our trust in God and His Word), and **feelings** (the result of our faith and obedience) – John 14:21.



The train will run with or without the caboose. But it would be useless to attempt to pull the train by the caboose. In the same way, we as Christians do not depend on feelings or emotions, but we place our faith (trust) in the trustworthiness of God and the promise of His Word.

So, what now...

Many things happened when, as an act of your will, you received Christ by faith, including:

- Christ came into your life (Revelations 3:20 and Colossians 1:27).
- Your sins were forgiven (Colossians 1:14).
- You became a child of God (John 1:12).
- You received eternal life (John 5:24).
- You began a new life for which God created you (John 10:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17 and 1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Suggestions for Christian Growth

Spiritual growth results from trusting Jesus Christ.

The righteous man shall live by faith – Galatians 3:11. Practice the following:

G – Go to God in prayer daily (John 15:7).

R – Read God’s Word daily (Acts 17:11). Begin with the Gospel of John.

O – Obey God moment by moment (John 14:21).

W – Witness for Christ by your life and words (Matthew 4:19; John 15:8).

T – Trust God for every detail of your life (1 Peter 5:7).

H – Holy Spirit – Allow Him to control and empower your daily life and witness (Galatians 5:16, 17; Acts 1:18).

Accountability and Fellowship

Find your accountability partner, someone who will hold you accountable in your Christian walk on a weekly basis.

Hebrews 10:25 encourages us to continue to meet together. A bright fire has many logs burning together and giving heat and light, but take a log out of the fire and that one log will stop giving light and heat. Find a church where Christ is honored and the Word is preached boldly. Start right away and make plans to attend regularly.