



# KNOWING GOD PERSONALLY

EACH ONE OF US HAS A STORY.  
A UNIQUE STORY. YET, BENEATH THE DIFFERENCES,  
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THERE ARE SOME UNIVERSAL  
THEMES. POINTS OF INTERSECTION, LIKE THE WAY WE  
CONSTANTLY SEARCH FOR SOMETHING BEYOND OUR  
PRESENT EXPERIENCE.

COULD IT BE THAT OUR DESIRES IMPLY THAT THERE IS MORE THAN OUR CURRENT EXPERIENCE?  
COULD IT BE THAT THESE DESIRES SHOW US THAT WE WERE CREATED TO KNOW GOD?

*The following points explain how you can enter  
into a personal relationship with God >>*

# 1

GOD LOVES YOU AND CREATED YOU TO KNOW HIM PERSONALLY. HE OFFERS A WONDERFUL PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE.

## GOD'S LOVE

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

## GOD'S PLAN

“And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” John 17:3

GOD'S LOVE

*What prevents us from knowing God personally? >>*

# 2

PEOPLE ARE SINFUL AND SEPARATED FROM GOD, SO WE CANNOT KNOW HIM PERSONALLY OR EXPERIENCE HIS LOVE AND PLAN.

OUR CONDITION

## PEOPLE ARE SINFUL

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

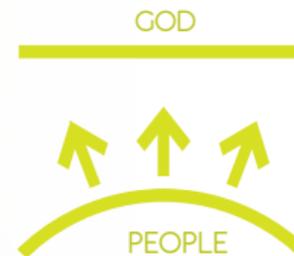
## WHAT IS SIN?

People were created to live in a relationship with God but because of our own stubborn self-will, we chose to go our own independent way and our relationship with God was broken. This self-will and the choice to satisfy our own desires, independent of God, is evidence of what the Bible calls sin. We show this attitude by being selfish, openly disobeying God, or by simply ignoring him.

## PEOPLE ARE SEPARATED

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 6:23



This diagram illustrates that God is holy and perfect and we are sinful. There is a great gap between us.

The arrows illustrate that we continually try to reach God and establish a personal relationship with Him through our own efforts, such as a good life, philosophy, or religion, but we inevitably fail.

*The third point explains the only way to bridge this gap >>*

# 3

JESUS CHRIST IS GOD'S ONLY PROVISION FOR OUR SIN. THROUGH HIM ALONE WE CAN KNOW GOD PERSONALLY AND EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE AND PLAN.

## GOD'S RESPONSE

### HE DIED IN OUR PLACE

"...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

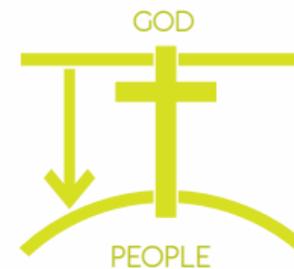
Romans 5:8

### HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD

"...Christ died for our sins...he was buried, he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...he appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred..." 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

### 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 except through me.'" John 14:6



This diagram illustrates that God has bridged the gap that 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.

In ways our own efforts fail to achieve, Jesus Christ provides the way for us to be forgiven and reconciled to God.

*It is not enough just to know these truths >>*

# 4

WE MUST INDIVIDUALLY RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOUR AND LORD; THEN WE CAN KNOW GOD PERSONALLY AND EXPERIENCE HIS LOVE AND PLAN.

## OUR RESPONSE

### WE MUST RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST

“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12

### WE RECEIVE JESUS THROUGH FAITH

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

Our own works or our own attempts at living a good life cannot lead us into a relationship with God. Rather, we experience the abundant life and relationship with him when we receive Jesus Christ by putting our trust in him.

### WE RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST BY PERSONAL INVITATION

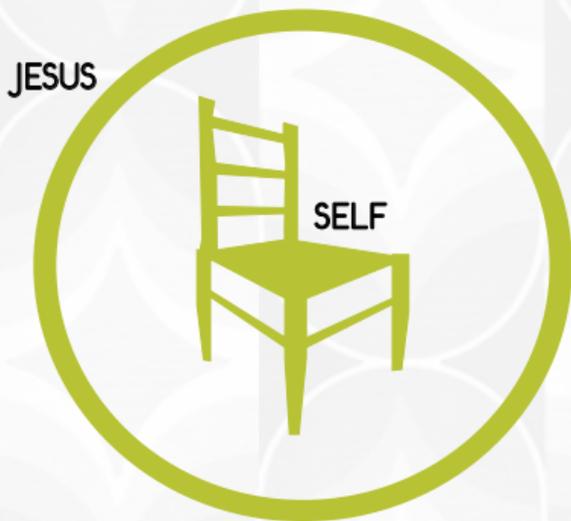
“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.” Revelation 3:20

Receiving Jesus Christ involves turning to God from self (repentance) and trusting Jesus Christ to come into our lives to forgive us of 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 our sins is not enough. Nor is it enough to have an emotional experience. We receive Jesus Christ by faith, as an act of the will.

*The following two circles represent two different kinds of lives >>*

## A LIFE WITHOUT JESUS CHRIST

Self is in the center; Jesus Christ is outside. There is an endless cycle of chasing after satisfaction and solutions independent of God, only to find our efforts fail.



## A LIFE ENTRUSTED TO JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is in the center, and self yields to him. People like this have entrusted their lives to Jesus Christ. They have been forgiven and experience a fulfilling, satisfying and loving relationship with God.

WHICH CIRCLE BEST DESCRIBES YOUR LIFE?

WHICH CIRCLE WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE REPRESENT YOUR LIFE?



# TWO KINDS OF LIVES

*The following explains how you can receive Jesus Christ >>*

## YOU CAN RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST RIGHT NOW BY FAITH THROUGH PRAYER

God knows your heart and is not as concerned with your words as he is with the attitude of your heart. The following is a suggested prayer: (Prayer is simply talking to God)

Lord Jesus,  
I want to know you personally.  
I'm sorry for going my own way and trying to find my own path.  
Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins.  
I open the door of my life and ask you to be my Saviour and Lord.  
Thank you for forgiving me of my sins and giving me eternal life.  
Take control of my life.  
Make me the kind of person you want me to be.

DOES THIS PRAYER EXPRESS THE DESIRE OF YOUR HEART?

IF IT DOES, PRAY THIS PRAYER RIGHT NOW, AND JESUS CHRIST  
WILL COME INTO YOUR LIFE, AS HE PROMISED.

PRAYER

*How can you be sure Jesus Christ is in your life? >>*

## THE BIBLE PROMISES ETERNAL LIFE TO ALL WHO RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST

“And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever 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 that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:11-13

THANK GOD OFTEN THAT JESUS CHRIST IS IN YOUR LIFE, AND THAT HE WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU (HEBREWS 13:5). YOU CAN KNOW ON THE BASIS OF HIS PROMISE THAT JESUS CHRIST LIVES IN YOU AND THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE FROM THE VERY MOMENT YOU INVITE HIM IN.

## *An important reminder...* DO NOT DEPEND ON HOW YOU FEEL

We rely on God and his promises in the Bible, not our feelings. Feelings are valid and important, but they do not determine what is true. A follower of Jesus lives by trusting in the reliability of God himself and the Bible.

Flying in a jet can illustrate the relationship between fact (God and his word), faith (our trust in God and his word), and feelings (a result of our faith and obedience) (John 14:21). To fly, we must place our faith in the trustworthiness of the jet and pilot who flies it.

Our feelings of confidence or fear do not affect the ability of the jet to transport us, though they do affect how much we enjoy the trip. In the same way, we as Christians do not depend on feelings or emotions, but we rely on God and what he has said in his word (the Bible).

## DID YOU RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST INTO YOUR LIFE?

According to His promise in Revelation 3:20, where is Jesus Christ right now in relation to you? Jesus Christ said that he would come into your life and be your Saviour and friend. Would he mislead you? On what authority do you know that God has answered your prayer? (The trustworthiness of God himself and his Word.)

# ASSURANCE

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU PUT YOUR TRUST IN JESUS CHRIST?

IF YOU HAVE INVITED JESUS CHRIST INTO YOUR LIFE BY FAITH, AS AN ACT OF YOUR WILL, MANY THINGS HAVE HAPPENED INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

Jesus Christ came into your life (Revelation 3:20 and Colossians 1:27)

All your sins have been forgiven (Colossians 1:13-14)

You became a child of God (John 1:12)

You received eternal life (John 5:24) and new power to enable you to live a new, transformed life.

You began the great adventure for which God created you (John 10:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:18)

Several logs burn brightly together, but put one aside and its fire goes out. In the same way, God doesn't intend you to live the Christian life in isolation. When you invite Jesus Christ into your life you become a part of God's family. This community, the church, is at the heart of God's eternal plan. Find a church where Jesus is worshipped and where the Bible is taught.

## HOW TO GROW AS A FOLLOWER OF JESUS

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST GROWS AS WE TRUST HIM WITH EVERY DETAIL OF OUR LIVES. THIS TRUST IS DEVELOPED THROUGH:

- G Going to God in prayer daily (John 15:7)
- R Reading the Bible daily (Psalms 1:1-3). Begin with the gospel of John
- O Obeying God moment by moment (John 14:21)
- W Walking in the power of the Holy Spirit (Colossians 2:6; Ephesians 3:14-21, 5:18). Remember your walk with Jesus Christ depends on what you allow him to do in and through you.
- T Telling others about Jesus Christ by our life and words (Matt 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Ephesians 4:1)
- H Having fellowship (community) with other Christians (Hebrews 10:25; Acts 2:42-47)

# RELATIONSHIP

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WE WELCOME YOUR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS AT ANY POINT ALONG THE WAY:

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