

Discover the reality of... **Knowing**

**HAVING THE CERTAINTY OF A PERSONAL
RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

Remember that you were...separate from Christ
...having no hope and **without God** in the world”

—Ephesians 2:12

God



1 Sin is a universal condition of all people.

“...for there is no distinction, for all have sinned...” (Romans 3:22b-23; also 1 John 1:8, 10; Romans 5:12).

2 The consequences of sin are separation and death.

“But your sins have separated you from your God” (Isaiah 59:2; also Romans 6:23a; John 8:24).

“Sin entered into the world and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned...” (Romans 5:12).

3 Jesus Christ has provided the only way back to God.

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

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven ... by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12; also John 1:29; Matthew 1:21; 1 Timothy 2:5).

Something to think about ...

“Does believing in God put me in personal relationship with God?”

- 95 % of Americans say they believe in God.
- The Muslims and Hindus believe in God.
- So do the Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses.
- So do the Moonies and Baha’i.
- So do my neighbors at the Temple of Eck.
- The demons (James 2:19) do, too!

ARE ALL THESE IN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

Jesus taught: If I don’t confess faith in Jesus as God the Son, then my sin separates me from God the Father too, and I am not in personal relationship with God (John 8:34-47).

Through the sacrifice system of the Jews, God made one point clear: Sin means death.

A *Go’el* (redeemer) is needed who can remove the sin and its consequences in order for us to be in personal relationship with God. Through the Law, God taught the Hebrew people that only a kinsman (relative) could qualify as a *Go’el* (see Leviticus 25:24-5, 48-9; Ruth 3:13; Numbers 35:19). But “no man can by any means redeem his brother, or give to God a ransom for him...” (Psalm 49:6). *Why?* All have sinned and are under bondage to it. Then God announced that He would be our *Go’el* (Isaiah 43:1). But how? Only a kinsman (human) can qualify to redeem. So God became flesh as Jesus Christ to be both qualified as a man and adequate to redeem (without sin). He became our *Go’el* to “give His life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).

Jesus taught: If I don’t have new life from above,

then I’m not in personal relationship with God and will not have eternal life in heaven (John 3:3).

4 Jesus Christ's death was as a substitute (kinsman-redeemer) to redeem me from sin into a forgiven and personal relationship with God.

"He died once for the sins of all us guilty sinners, although He Himself was innocent of any sin at any time, that He might bring us safely home to God" (1 Peter 3:18).

"It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15; also Romans 5:8; Mark 10:45; 1 Timothy 1:15; 1 Pet. 2:24).

5 God's forgiveness through Christ's death must be affirmed by a confession of faith (or personal response).

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out..." (Acts 3:19).

"If you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9; also 1 John 1:9; Acts 2:37-38; Acts 16:31).

6 God's act of grace in those who place their trust in Jesus Christ includes a new relationship (or new birth) because the Holy Spirit has come to live in them.

"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent...but born of God" (John 1:12).

"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you" (1 Corinthians 3:16; also John 3:3; 7:37-39; 14:16, 17; Titus 3:5, 6; 1 Corinthians 6:19).

7 God's act of grace in those who place their trust in Jesus Christ includes the gift and assurance of eternal life.

"...the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23b).

"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" (1 John 5:13; also Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3:16).

Prayer of Personal Response

Dear God,

I want to know the reality of a personal relationship with you. I acknowledge that my sin has separated me from you. I repent, and believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross in my place to be my Savior for the forgiveness of my sin. Create spiritual renewal within me by the power of the Holy Spirit, and enable me to more fully understand and follow your Word from this day on. Thank you for adopting me as your spiritual child, and giving me the gift and assurance of eternal life. Amen.

***But now in Christ Jesus** you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ....So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow-citizens with the saints, and are of God's household..." (Ephesians 2:13, 19).*