

Seeking God?

God loves a seeking heart. You may be looking for a sense of purpose in your life. Maybe your heart is empty and each day consists of simply doing the “next thing.” I have great news for you! That purpose and contentment can be found in a personal relationship with God. You can know Him! More than you wanting to know God—*He* wants you to know Him. From that relationship flows the best plan for your life, the plan made by the One who created you, knows you best, and loves you most. How can you know Him?

1. Recognize that you are a sinner.

The Bible says, “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). We’ve missed the mark and fallen short of God’s standard of holiness. It also says, “There is no one righteous, not even one” (Romans 3:10). In other words, we all have made mistakes and sinned against God. No one is or ever will be perfect.

Not only that, you didn’t become a sinner the first time you did something wrong; you were born that way. We all were. “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man [Adam], and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—” (Romans 5:12).

2. Understand that your sin demands payment.

Romans 6:23 tells us, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Jesus Christ went to the cross for you...and for me...to make the payment for sin that you and I should have made. He took our place! What a great love! Romans 5:8 describes

that love in this way, "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

3. Confess your sin to God.

To confess means to agree with God about your sin and choose to turn away or "repent" of your sin. You are choosing to step away from your old life and ways in order to follow God and live out His amazing plan for your life. Once you confess that you are a sinner, and ask God to forgive you of your sin, He promises that He will.

4. Receive His gift of forgiveness.

The Bible promises, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Understand that God forgiveness is a gift. You can't earn it by being good enough or doing good things.

5. Pray and Ask Jesus to be your Savior and Lord.

The Bible says, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."(Acts 16:31). We can receive Jesus Christ by personally inviting Him into our lives. Once you ask Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, you will receive eternal life, which begins today. When you die, you will go to heaven to spend eternity with God.

Your prayer might go something like this:

"Lord Jesus, I need you. Thank you for dying on the cross to pay the penalty for my sins. I ask forgiveness for my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Thank you for giving me the gift of eternal life. I want to turn and live a new life with you as my Lord and Savior. Thank you, Jesus. Amen."

You may or may not feel any difference right away, but if you truly have asked Christ to be your Savior, your sins are forgiven and you are a child of God. The Bible promises, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1)

6. Accept God's gift of salvation by faith and thank Him for coming into your life.

When you ask Jesus to be your Savior and Lord of your life, then He does! Accept God's grace and forgiveness as His gift to you and thank Him for coming into your life. Turn your life over to Him and choose to follow Him from this day forward. Romans 8:38 promises that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

7. Share your decision with someone, and celebrate the fact that God has taken up residence in your heart from this moment on.

Friend, I celebrate this new relationship with Jesus with you! It is the most important decision you will ever make. I encourage you to join a church that teaches the Bible. Look for a small group Bible study in which you can participate. Begin spending a few minutes every day, praying to God and reading His Word. Start with the book of John. It tells you so much about who God is and why Jesus came.

I pray that you will follow Him and experience all the blessings He has for you on your journey.

Blessings!

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