



*Growing
in Your
Relationship
with God.*



Welcome to God's Family

When you *believed* that Jesus died for your sins on the Cross, *sincerely* asked Him to *forgive you* of your sins, and to become your *Lord and Saviour* a great transaction took place:

- You were cleansed by the sinless blood of Jesus that He shed on the Cross (1 John 1:9).
- Your sins were forgiven by God (Col. 1:14; Rom. 5:10).
- God's Holy Spirit came to dwell in your heart filling you with His love (Rom 5:5; 8:9).
- You were given a *new life* and a *relationship* with God as His precious child (2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 8:15-17; 1 John 3:1).

New Life: A part of having *new life* in Christ is to turn away from your *old life* of sin leaving it behind. A fruit of your *relationship* with God is that you will no longer live like those who don't believe (Eph. 5:8; Rom. 12:2). Having new life in Christ means that you have started on the greatest adventure there is - *knowing God personally!*

Living Relationship: The Bible tells us that this *relationship* is one that is based upon God's *grace*, which means there is nothing you can do to *earn* the forgiveness that God gives or the *love* He offers (Eph. 1:7; Rom. 11:6). He *freely gave* you these when you accepted Christ's sacrifice on your behalf.

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Although the forgiveness given you in Christ can't be earned by the things you do, there are things that you can do that will help you *grow* in your relationship with Him.

Just like a human relationship that has any depth requires communication, the same applies to your relationship with God. You can communicate with God through *prayer* & studying His Word the *Bible*.

Prayer: God desires us to speak to Him in prayer. Prayer is as simple as speaking to God in your heart or speaking to Him out-loud. You can pray anywhere, at any time, and you can talk to God about anything - *He desires to hear from you!*

The Bible tells us to be a person who prays all the time (1 Thess. 5:17). In Jesus' prayer in Luke: 11:1-14, we have an example of things we can speak to God about in prayer:

- Thanking God for Who He is, what He has done, and what He is doing (verse 2).
- Asking that His will would be done here on Earth in your life and the lives of others (verse 2).
- Asking Him to provide your daily needs (verse 3).
- Asking forgiveness when we know that we have sinned (verse 4). Even though you have been given *new life* in Christ there will be

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times when you will fail and sin (1 Jn 1:10). When this happens, stop and ask God to forgive you and it will be forgiven immediately (1 Jn. 1:9).

- Praying for others who might not know God or who may have even sinned against you (verse 4).
- Asking for God's protection against the Devil's tricks in seeking to lead you into sin and to harm you (verse 5).

As you spend time with God in prayer He will help you to grow strong in your relationship with Him (Isa. 40:31).

God's Word: The *Bible* is like spiritual food for your soul. Just like your body hungers after physical food on a daily basis, so too does your spirit crave for spiritual food. God has given you His Word as a source of spiritual nourishment for your soul and a way for Him to be able to communicate to you.

The *Bible* is unlike any other book, because it being authored by God is alive and is powerful (Heb. 4:12). God uses His Word to speak to us about Himself and our lives with Him. He says that His Word is able to equip you to live in a way that pleases Him (2 Tim. 3:16).

Getting into the *Bible* on a daily basis will ensure that you grow stronger and stronger in your *relationship* with God. He promises that if you spend time daily

reading His Word, thinking about what it is saying, and applying it to your life that you will be like, “*a tree planted by the rivers of water, producing fruit in its season, his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he does will prosper.*” (Ps. 1:3).

Knowing God’s Word will also help you against the attempts of Satan to lead you astray. When Satan tried to tempt Jesus, He responded by quoting Scripture: see Luke 4:1-14.

If the Bible is new to you, the *Gospel of John* or the book of *Romans* are good places to start. Start at the beginning of the book and work your way through over time. Set apart time each day to spend with God reading His Word. Mornings are usually the best and then you can ‘*chew*’ on what you have been reading throughout the day.

Enjoy communing with God as He speaks to you through His Word!

Fellowship: God tells us in the *Bible* that we need to spend time with other people that are in His family so that we can encourage one another in our faith, helping each other along the way (Heb. 10:24-25).

Spending time with other believers is healthy, because we can worship God together, pray for each other, encourage one another, and help each other in times of need.

Common sense tells us there is strength in numbers. If we isolate ourselves it’s easier to fall back into our *old life* and to succumb to the temptations of the Devil, because we aren’t getting the encouragement and help from other believers that we need.

Sharing: The more you come to understand what God has done for you and how much He loves people you will want to share with others what Jesus has done for us.

Don't be afraid to share with others what Jesus has done for you personally in giving you new life and a relationship with Him. He desires that you would share His love with others so that they would come to know Him too (Mark 16:15).

Enjoy your new Relationship with God and all that He has for you as you seek to grow in Him!

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