



Getting Right with God

Jesus said, "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light," Matthew 11:28-30.

Everyone's most important need is to get right with God ... to be sure of a safe and eternal relationship with Him. God offers help to all who come to Him on His terms. Some men asked Jesus, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" And speaking of Himself, Jesus answered, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent," John 6:28-29. That is the eternally important step that everyone must take to get right with God. Do you need to get right with God?

It is good for each of us to think through our relationship with God. He doesn't ask us to make a blind leap of faith. He invites us to think logically and rationally through our relationship with Him. God encourages each of us, "Come now, and let us reason together," Isaiah 1:18. The purpose of this site is to help you in that process. First, I will ask five questions ... and answer them from the Bible. Then, I will ask that one important question that only you can answer. It is about your relationship with Jesus Christ ... a relationship that begins with a rational step of faith. You need to be sure that you have taken that step ... that you are right with God.

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Your invitation...

Please seriously consider *getting right with God*. Your decision about Jesus is very important. If you aren't sure about your relationship with Him, then you are at a fork in the road to your eternity. It is time for you to make the right choice. Thoughtfully go through the following content. Give it enough time. Set your presuppositions aside ... and reason it through with God. Ask Him to help you understand. The Gospel is good news. It is God's good news about what He has done for you ... and it's about what He wants you to do. If you died tonight, are you sure about what would happen next? God has done His part to make it possible for you to be sure ... to be sure that you are in a safe, eternal relationship with Him. However, you need to do your part. Being good isn't good enough. Being religious isn't enough. You need to take a step of faith.

Question 1. Why did God send Jesus to us?

What was God's motivation for sending Jesus? The answer is good news for us. He sent Jesus because He loves us. "*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life,*" John 3:16. Everyone wants to be loved. But sometimes, love is given only if it is earned. It wasn't like that with God. He loved us when we didn't deserve it. "*God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us,*" Romans 5:8. Some people feel unloved. Where love has been sought, none was found. However, we don't have to feel that way. We are loved. God loves us.

Motivated by love, God sent Jesus to provide the free gift of eternal life. And that eternal life is more than living forever. The Bible makes it clear that everyone will live forever. No one will be extinguished beyond the grave. What is God's gift of eternal life? Jesus defined it as, "*This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent,*" John 17:3. His gift of eternal life is a personal relationship with Him ... one that continues on into eternity. But if we refuse His gift, we will suffer His wrath, John 3:36 ... and we will be separated from Him forever, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9.

Question 1: Why did God send Jesus to us?

Answer: God sent Jesus to us because He loves us and because He wants to give the gift of eternal life to us ... the gift of a relationship with Him for all eternity.

Question 2. Why did Jesus come to us?

All other religions are examples of man seeking God. Christianity is the opposite of that ... it is God seeking man. Jesus said that He came *“to seek and to save that which was lost,”* Luke 19:10. Jesus came to our world to seek and to save lost people ... lost people like you and me.

Some people describe religion as a blind leap of faith into the dark. Actually, that is true of other religions. However, that isn't the way of Christianity. Jesus said, *“I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life,”* John 8:12. Believing in Jesus is a rational step of faith ... a step into the true light. Other religions are examples of lost men drawing their own dead-end maps to God. Biblical Christianity is not like that. Jesus came to show us the way to God ... to be the way. Jesus said, *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me,”* John 14:6. Jesus is the one road to God. The Apostle Peter declared, *“There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved,”* Acts 4:12. Jesus is the one bridge between God and man. *“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all,”* 1 Timothy 2:5-6.

Question 2: Why did Jesus come to us?

Answer: He came to seek and to save us. He came to be our light in the dark world ... to show us the way to God ... to be our way to God.

Question 3. What did Jesus do for us?

Other religions are man's guesses about what man must do to gain God's approval. Christianity is about what God has actually done for man. Jesus' death on the cross is the one event that makes it possible for us to become right with God. He died for us. He paid for our sins. Jesus said, *“I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep,”* John 10:11.

The Apostle Paul wrote, *“I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins ... and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day,”* 1 Corinthians 15:3-4. The Apostle Peter wrote, *“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness,”* 1 Peter 2:24. And, *“You were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold ... but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ,”* 1 Peter 1:18-19.

Question 3: What did Jesus do for us?

Answer: He gave His life for us. He died on the cross to pay for our sins.

Question 4. Why is the cross important?

Our sin separates us from God. *“Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,”* Isaiah 59:2. Other religions offer no solution to our sin-caused separation from God. However, the death of Jesus on the cross provides the only solution ... a solution that actually works. Other religions suggest that improving personal behavior is the path to salvation ... in hopes that if we are good enough, God will overlook our record of sins. We certainly can improve our moral and ethical behavior. However, that doesn't change our record. Imagine a serial murderer asking to be pardoned because he's been killing fewer and fewer people each year. Such a defense wouldn't work in a courtroom ... and it won't work with God. The penalty for our sins must be paid. God is a just God. His justice must be met. Improving our behavior isn't enough ... that only makes our record get worse more slowly. There are what might be called horizontal sins ... those directed towards our fellowman and against ourselves. In addition, there are vertical sins ... those directed toward God. It is sin to spend a lifetime ignoring or rejecting God.

You may not have committed any big horizontal sins. But four sins a day for 15 years adds up to almost 22,000 sins. Six sins a day for 10 years adds up to the same number. And a lifetime of vertical sin is inexcusable. We are far from perfect. God requires payment for our sins. We can pay with our own spiritual death ... by eternal separation from God. Or we can take God's better way. *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord,”* Romans 6:23.

Question 4: Why is the cross important to you?

Answer: It is important because it's the place where Jesus paid for your sins. The gift of eternal life is free to you ... but Jesus paid for it with His death on the cross. However, that gift isn't automatically yours. The Bible states that you must do one thing.

Question 5. What does God want you to do?

Some men asked, *“What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?”* Jesus answered, *“This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent,”* John 6:28-29. Believing in Jesus is the one thing that each of us must do to become right with God. Believing *in* Him is more than believing *about* Him. You believe about Him with your mind. Believing in Him is different ... it is an active response from the heart.

Imagine standing at the open door of an airplane that has lost power to its engines somewhere in mid-flight over the Atlantic Ocean. If you stay on the plane, you will die. However, you have one chance to be saved. A parachute has been offered to you. You have always believed about parachutes ... but stepping out of that plane with one on your back requires more than mental belief. It requires an active response of your will. You must believe in the parachute to be saved by the parachute. When you do step out, it will

carry you to safety. Stepping out of the plane in faith without a parachute isn't enough. No amount of faith can replace a missing parachute. Moreover, you must have the right one. A faulty substitute cannot save you. A similar step of faith is necessary for your spiritual salvation. You must do more than believe about Jesus ... you must believe in Jesus. Your step of faith allows Him to save you. Be sure that you have taken that step.

Question 5: What does God want you to do?

Answer: He wants you to believe in Jesus. He wants you to take that step of faith. You need to put your trust in Him.

The question only you can answer: *Will you put your faith in Jesus?*

That is the most important question that you could ever be asked. And only you can answer it. Your answer is the most important answer you will ever give. This isn't about being religious. It's about a relationship. You need to establish your relationship with God by putting your faith in Jesus ... by believing in Him. Being religious isn't enough. You may love God, pray to Him, go to His house, and give gifts of your time and money to Him. All of that is good ... but it isn't enough. I remember the time before I married my wife. I knew a lot about her. I loved her very much. I talked to her almost every day. I went to her house whenever I could. I read her letters. And I gave gifts to her. However, none of those things made me married. I wasn't married until I made my covenant with her. I had believed about her ... but that wasn't enough. On our wedding day, I took a step of faith when I said, "I do". I wasn't married until that moment. That day I changed from believing about her to believing in her. It is the same in your relationship with God. You aren't in a true relationship with God until you make your covenant with Him ... until you say, "I do" to Him. You do that by believing in Jesus. Have you put your faith in Jesus? You need to be sure about this. If that step of faith is missing in your life, today would be a good day for you to say, "I do" to Him. You really need to settle this once and for all.

The choice is yours. Will you put your faith in Jesus right now? Will you take that step of faith by believing in Him? No one can decide for you. No one can take that step for you. If you are ready to believe in Him, it is easy to do. God loves you. However, your sin separates you from Him. He is perfect ... and you are imperfect. The wrong things that you have done keep you from Him. That is your problem ... separation from God. The good news is that He has done something about that separation. He loved you and sent Jesus to solve the problem. Jesus, being God, died on the cross to pay for your sins. That is God's part of the solution. Your part of the solution requires a step of faith ... a point-in-time believing *in* Jesus. At the moment that you believe in Jesus, you become God's child ... your sins are forgiven ... and you are given the gift of eternal life.

The question you need to answer: *Will you put your faith in Jesus right now?*

Answer: Only you can answer this question. The choice is yours.

What will you choose?

If you haven't believed in Jesus, you face an eternity away from God. *"Those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus ... will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord,"* 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9. Be careful about delaying. Delaying is really a risky form of saying *no*. There is no second chance beyond the grave, Hebrews 9:27. You don't need to understand everything ... just as you wouldn't need to understand everything about parachutes to be saved by one. However, you do need to make a true heart response when you take this step of faith. You are at a fork in the road to your eternity. Which way will you choose? Will you go it alone without God? Or will you choose Jesus? Make the right choice ... make it now. Say, "I do" to Jesus. It is easy to do ... easy for you because Jesus has already done the difficult part. He died on the cross for you. He paid for your sins. He conquered death and rose from the grave, 1 Corinthians 15:1-5.

In a simple prayer of faith, tell God that you believe in Jesus. You can be sure about your relationship with God. You can be safe for eternity. Take your step of faith right now. Put your trust in Jesus. I invite you to do that with this simple prayer. Pray it now. Pray it from your heart.

*Dear God,
I admit that I have done wrong things ... I am a sinner.
I turn to You from my sin.
I believe in Jesus.
I believe that He, being God, died on the cross to pay for my sins.
I invite Him to be my Savior.
Amen.*

If you said that prayer just now, please continue reading below at: *Congratulations!*

However, if you aren't sure about taking this step yet, please continue reading at page 8.

Congratulations!

By saying that prayer, you became God's child. The Bible promises, *"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. Today is your spiritual birthday. You've been born into God's family. There is joy in heaven because you believed in Jesus. It is a joyous day. Jesus said, *"I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents,"* Luke 15:10. You have begun a new life as a child of God. You now have wonderful promises and special privileges. You are safe for eternity. You should tell someone that you have believed in Jesus. God wants you to talk to Him ... He wants you to pray. And He wants to talk to you through His Word ... through the Bible.

Promises from God. Nothing can separate you from God's love, Romans 8:35-39. Jesus gave three great promises, *"I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life,"* John 5:24. Eternal life is your present possession ... you won't be condemned ... and you have already passed out of spiritual death into eternal life. You are safe for all of eternity. Jesus will never reject you. He said, *"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out,"* John 6:37. No one can take you away from God. Jesus said, *"I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand,"* John 10:28-29. God is holding on to you. You are not holding on to Him. He is stronger than anyone and everyone ... even stronger than you are. No one can ever pull you out of His all-powerful hand.

Tell someone about your step of faith. Jesus said, *"Everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven,"* Matthew 10:32. The word *confess* means *publicly acknowledge* ... means *tell someone*. You can do that easily by telling John, the author of this site, by clicking here ... [Tell John](#). Please publicly acknowledge Christ by telling John that you have believed in Jesus.

Talk to your Heavenly Father. Prayer is talking to God. Talk to Him. Don't worry about how you sound. And please don't try to sound religious. Be yourself. Be open and honest. *"The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth,"* Psalm 145:18.

Read His Word. The Bible is God's message to you. It is His talking to you. Jesus said, *"Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God,"* Matthew 4:4. God has much in His Word for you. *"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work,"* 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Spend time listening to God by spending time in His Word every day.

Choosing a Bible. There are three types of Bibles. Word-for-word translations are the most accurate ... most closely following the original languages. Dynamic equivalents are somewhat easier to read ... being more thought-for-thought than word-for-word. Paraphrases are the easiest to read ... conveying ideas more than details ...but are often more like a commentary than an actual Bible. Good translations include the New American Standard (the favorite of the author of 911God), the English Standard, and the New King James. The New International Version is a dynamic equivalent. Bibles without study aids are the simplest and least expensive. However, a good study Bible (like the Ryrie Study Bible) can be helpful ... providing commentary, footnotes, outlines, cross-references connecting similar verses, maps, and other resources. If you need more information or a specific recommendation, make your request at John@JohnDMorris.org.

Additional resources. Four short lessons can help you get started in your walk with God. Click here for a print-friendly PDF of [Bible Basics One](#). In addition, you might enjoy the short daily bytes of God's Word at www.eBread.org. And for a challenge to grow in your walk with God, click here: www.DiscipleOrBeliever.org.

For the unsure...

Thank you for continuing to this section. Saying that prayer without meaning it would have been pointless. I am glad that you didn't do that. But please keep thinking seriously and urgently about taking your step of faith. It is important. And as you think about doing it, keep this in perspective ... no finite person can know everything about an infinite God. You can never know 100% about Him. If you could, then He wouldn't be God. To take your step of faith, you need only to be sure enough intellectually to make a true commitment from your heart.

You came to this page because you weren't quite ready to believe in Jesus. Do you know what is standing in your way? Is something real preventing you from taking that step ... or are you just resisting it? Unanswered questions may be obstacles to your step faith. Brief responses to some common questions are given below. And if you need more detailed answers to these or other questions, visit www.eSeeker.org or contact the author of this site at John@JohnDMorris.org. Your correspondence will be treated with complete confidentiality.

Be persistent in your search ... it is important. And when you are ready, go back to the beginning of this document ... carefully and prayerfully read through it again ... and then take your step of faith.

Questions and answers

What about the hypocrites?

True Christians should be credible examples of what they believe. Obviously, new believers shouldn't be expected to act grown-up ... they are works-in-progress. But sadly, there are Christians who are poor examples of the faith. And some who falsely claim to be Christian do awful things in the name of Jesus. These latter two types are the ones who turn some people away from God. Jesus strongly disapproved of such hypocrites. He said, *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like white-washed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness,"* Matthew 23:27. You and Jesus agree ... you both disapprove of hypocrisy. Don't let the hypocrites keep you from Him.

Can I trust the Bible?

The Bible claims to be God's Word, directly and indirectly, more than 2,500 times. It is the most significant book in the world. Compared to other books, more copies of the Bible have been printed ... it's been translated into more languages ... it's been more widely distributed ... it's been accepted in more cultures ... and it's positively changed more lives. The Bible comes from many more old manuscripts than other books have ...

the New Testament from more than 14,000 whole or fragmented ones. Modern archeology has authenticated thousands of the Bible's historical and geographical references. In addition, a vast number of Bible prophecies have been fulfilled. Over 300 Old Testament predictions about the Messiah were fulfilled in the life and death of Jesus. You can trust the Bible. *"The words of the Lord are pure words,"* Psalm 12:6.

Is Jesus the only way to God?

Exclusivity in important situations is necessary and expected. We wouldn't want an anything-is-okay surgeon, pharmacist, airline mechanic, or pilot. Narrowness isn't the issue. Truth is the issue. Popular opinion, comfort, and desire don't create truth. Jesus said, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me,"* John 14:6. Was He telling the truth ... or was He lying? He was telling the truth. If all religious roads lead to God, then He would be unfair in applying different standards to different people. The only fair way is one equal way for everyone. And other religions are unfair because they ignore the problem of sin. They offer their own good works standard in hopes that God will overlook sin ... but He won't. Other religions offer no solution ... no payment for sin ... no forgiveness. They are unfair because they don't work.

Isn't being good enough?

Good works are important to God. *"We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,"* Ephesians 2:10. It is important to be good. But just one sin infects us ... making us guilty, James 2:10. And that separates us from God. Improving our behavior by being good doesn't take away the guilt of our past sins. We have all sinned and fall short of His standard of perfection, Romans 3:23. We need the forgiveness that comes from Christ's death paying for our sins. *"Everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins,"* Acts 10:43. That forgiveness comes only through believing in Him. *"For 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 may boast,"* Ephesians 2:8-9.

Is Jesus God or was He just a good man?

Jesus obviously was a good man. However, He claimed equality with God in saying, *"I and the Father are one,"* John 10:30. He also claimed to do things that only God can do ... to forgive sins, give life, and judge man, Mark 2:1-12, John 6:35, 11:25-26, and 5:22-27. He couldn't have been just a good man. He was either God or a lying megalomaniac. Jesus used miracles to authenticate His claims. He miraculously fed the 5,000 and then claimed to be the bread of life ... claimed to be the light of the world and then healed a blind man ... and claimed to be the resurrection and the life and then raised Lazarus from the dead, John 6:1-35, 9:1-7, and 11:25-45. An important name for God in the Bible is "I AM", Exodus 3:14. Jesus used that name for Himself, John 8:28, 58. He said, *"Unless you believe that I AM, you will die in your sins,"* John 8:24.

How can miracles be possible?

By definition, miracles are events that are humanly impossible ... possible only by divine intervention. It is logical to conclude that if God exists, miracles are possible ... and if miracles exist, then God is possible. But it is illogical to reject the possibility of miracles because one rejects the possibility of God. One miracle stands out in history ... the miraculous Resurrection of Jesus that transformed the world. He couldn't have simply recovered after His brutal execution. He returned from the dead and appeared to many people, I Corinthians 15:3-8. That fact changed the cowardly disciples into bold witnesses and martyrs ... and it has changed men and women throughout history. That miracle proved that Jesus was God. **What about people who haven't heard?** Some people seem to have had no chance to hear about Jesus. Concern about their destiny is good ... compelling many to the mission field. Will heathen people get to heaven some other way? *No* ... there is no salvation without Jesus, Acts 4:12. The heathen are judged fairly by God's law written in their hearts ... they are not judged by what they haven't heard, Romans 2:11-16. They fail to live up to that inner standard. Their behavior isn't good ... often including immorality, cruelty, idolatry, sorcery, witchcraft, demonism, and human sacrifice. Many inexcusably never seek the true God. Even without knowing His name, they know that He exists, Romans 1:19-20. They know enough to seek Him. And God reveals Himself to true seekers, Jeremiah 29:13. He usually does that through human means, Romans 10:14-15 ... but He may do so miraculously. Concern for the heathen is good. However, we should also be concerned about ourselves ... after all, we have heard about Jesus. *"How will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?"*, Hebrews 2:3.

Why is there so much suffering?

God gave free choice to man. We are not robots. The world is poisoned by man's choice of sin. It is permeated by disease, death, and depravity. Original sin brought consequential judgment. Therefore, the world is winding down ... riddled by natural disasters and deprivation. And man's continuing bad choices bring suffering to many ... even to following generations. However, with free choice comes the ability to choose life with God. He said, *"I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live,"* Deuteronomy 30:19. Isn't it time to choose Jesus?

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