

**CONNECTING**

*with*

**GOD**

1

**YOU**

**WERE created WITH VALUE AND WORTH**

**DID YOU KNOW...**

**GOD LOVES YOU AND CREATED YOU  
TO KNOW HIM PERSONALLY.**

**THE BIBLE TELLS US...**

**GOD CREATED YOU**

*“You created every part of me and put me together  
in my mother’s womb.” (Psalm 139:13-14)*

**GOD LOVES YOU**

*“For God loved the world so much that He gave His  
only Son so that anyone who believes in Him shall  
not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)*

**GOD’S PURPOSE FOR YOU**

[Christ is speaking] *“My purpose is to give life in  
all its fullness.” (John 10:10)*

**WHAT** *keeps us from connecting with* **GOD**  
*and knowing Him* **personally?**

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**MAN** is *sinful* and **SEPARATED**  
from **GOD** so we cannot **KNOW** Him  
**PERSONALLY** or experience **HIS LOVE.**

## PEOPLE ARE SINFUL

*“For all have sinned; all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” (Romans 3:23)*

We were created to have a personal relationship with God, but by our own choice and self-will we have gone our own independent way and that relationship has been broken. This self-will, often seen as an attitude of active rebellion towards God or a lack of interest in Him, is an evidence of what the Bible calls sin.

## PEOPLE ARE SEPARATED

*“But the trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God.” (Isaiah 59:2)*

*“For the wages of sin is death.” (Romans 6:23)*

This picture illustrates that God is holy and people are sinful. A great gap separates the two. The arrows show that people are continually trying to reach God through their own efforts such as a good life, philosophy or religion, but they always fail.



*What is the* **SOLUTION** *to our sin and*  
**SEPARATION** *from GOD?*

**JESUS CHRIST** is **GOD'S** only

Through Him **ALONE** we can **KNOW GOD**

### **HE DIED IN OUR PLACE**

*“But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” (Romans 5:8)*

### **HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD**

*“Christ died for our sins ... He was buried, and He was raised from the dead on the third day ... He was seen by Peter and then by the twelve apostles. After that He was seen by more than five hundred ...” (1 Corinthians 15:3-6)*

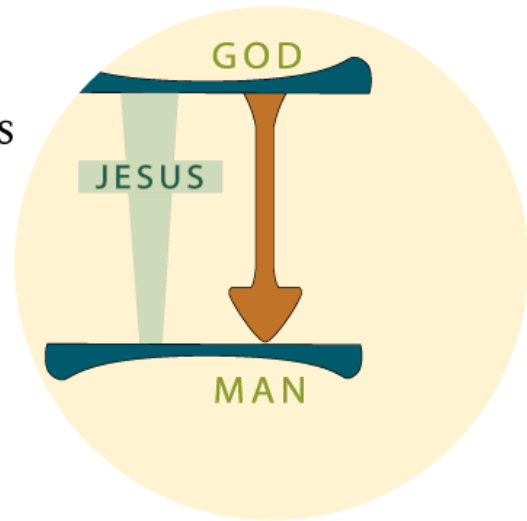
# SOLUTION for our SIN

personally and EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE.

## HE IS THE ONLY WAY TO GOD

*“Jesus said to them, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’” (John 14:6)*

This picture illustrates how 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.



about **JESUS CHRIST**...

**We must PERSONALLY RECEIVE**

**JESUS  
CHRIST**

**as our SAVIOR and LORD**

**then we can know GOD  
PERSONALLY and  
experience His LOVE.**

## **WE MUST BELIEVE IN AND RECEIVE CHRIST**

*“To all who received Him, He gave the right to become children of God. All they had to do was to trust [believe in] Him to save them.” (John 1:12)*

## **WE RECEIVE CHRIST BY FAITH**

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is a gift of God - not by works so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:8,9)*

## **WHEN WE RECEIVE CHRIST WE EXPERIENCE A NEW BIRTH**

*(See John 3:1-8.)*

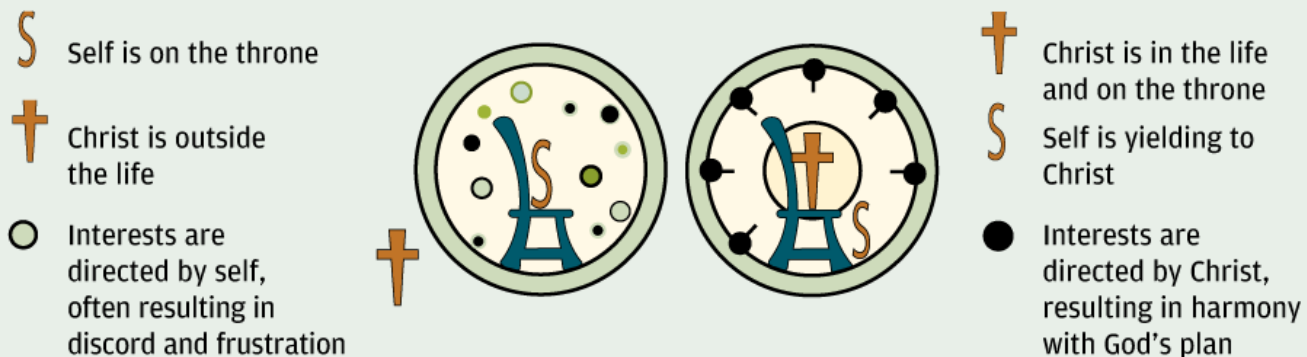
## WE RECEIVE CHRIST BY PERSONAL INVITATION

[Christ is speaking] *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him.”* (Revelation 3:20)

### RECEIVING CHRIST INVOLVES:

- Recognizing our need for Christ.
- Turning to Christ and away from self (repentance).
- Trusting Christ to come into our lives, forgive our sins, and make us what He wants us to be.

Just to agree 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 a decision of our will. This illustration represents two types of lives:



**WHICH CIRCLE BEST REPRESENTS YOUR LIFE?**

**WHICH CIRCLE WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE REPRESENT YOUR LIFE?**



## HERE IS HOW YOU CAN *RECEIVE*



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

Prayer is talking with God. God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart. Here is a suggested prayer.

*Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross in my place for my sins. I believe in You, and I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving me of my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life and 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 Christ will  
come into your life, as He promised.

# HOW TO KNOW THAT CHRIST IS IN YOUR LIFE

Did you receive Christ into your life? According to His promise in Revelation 3:20, where is Christ right now in relation to you? He said He would come into your life. Would He mislead you? How do you know He has answered your prayer? (You can trust God and His Word, the Bible. He will not deceive you.)

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

“Whoever has God’s Son has life; whoever does not have His Son, does not have life. I have written this to you who believe in the Son of God so that you may know you have eternal life.”  
(1 John 5:12-13)

Thank God often that Christ is in your life and that He will never leave you (Hebrews 13:5). You have eternal life from the moment you receive Him.

## DON'T DEPEND ON FEELINGS

Our feelings about God and about what is true may change from time to time. However the promises of God's Word, the Bible—not our feelings—is the basis of our confidence. The Christian lives by faith (trust) in God Himself and His Word.



This train illustration shows the relationship between fact (God and His Word), faith (our trust in God and His Word), and feeling (which is the result of our faith and obedience).

The train will run with or without the caboose. However, it would be useless to attempt to pull the train by the caboose. In the same way, we as Christians do not depend on feelings or emotions to decide what is true, but we place our faith in the promises of His Word.

NOW *that you have*

TRUSTED

CHRIST

The moment that you received Christ by faith, many things happened, including the following:

- Christ came into your life. (Revelation 3:20; John 14:20)
- Your sins were forgiven. (Colossians 1:14)
- You received eternal life. (John 5:24)
- You became a child of God and a member of His family. (John 1:12,13)
- As God's child you now can experience His special purpose and plan for your life. (John 10:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Wouldn't you like to stop and thank God for your new relationship with Him?

To **ENJOY** *your relationship with*

GOD...

# HOW TO GROW IN YOUR

## RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

G

Go to God in prayer. Talk to Him each day.  
(Philippians 4:6,7)

R

Read God's Word every day. It will build your faith.  
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

O

Obey God when you know what is right.  
(John 14:21)

W

Witness - Tell others about your faith in Christ,  
by your life and words. (1 Peter 3:15,16)

T

Trust God with every detail of your life.  
(1 Peter 5:7)

H

Holy Spirit - This is God's Spirit living in you.  
Allow Him to give you His power to live your life  
and tell others. (Galatians 5:16; Acts 1:8)

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For further information visit: [www.growinginchrist.com](http://www.growinginchrist.com)

## DON'T FORGET

The Bible tells us not to forget the importance of meeting together with other Christians (Hebrews 10:25).

Have you ever watched a fire burning in a fireplace? Several logs together burn brightly. But if you pull one log away from the fire, its flame soon goes out. The same thing happens to us if we do not spend time with other Christians. Attend a church where Christ is talked about and the Bible is taught. Start this week and make plans to attend regularly.

*If this booklet has been helpful to you, share it with others.*

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