



## Getting Right With God

### An Invitation...

It is good 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. "Come now, and let us reason together," says the Lord." Isaiah 1:18. The purpose of *Getting Right With God* is to help in that process. After a few pages, I will ask the most important question that anyone could ever ask. Your answer will be of great consequence ... it will affect your eternity. But first, I will ask five other questions ... and answer them. Then, I will ask that one important question that only you can answer. It is about your relationship with Jesus ... 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.

Your decision about Jesus is very important. If you aren't sure about your relationship with Him, then you are now at a fork in the road to your eternity. It is time for you to make your choice. Thoughtfully go through the next few pages. Give it enough time. Set your presuppositions aside ... and reason it through with God. Ask Him to help you understand. Ask Him to convince you of His truth.

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 enough. Being religious isn't enough. You need to take a step of faith.

## 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. 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 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.

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

## Why did Jesus come to us?

Other religions are examples of man seeking God. Christianity is the opposite of that ... it is God actively seeking man. Jesus said that He had "come to seek and to save that which was lost." Luke 19:10. Jesus came to earth 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. 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 light.

Other religions are examples of lost men drawing their own maps to God. Christianity is not like that. Jesus came to show us the way to God ... to be the way. He 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. "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.

Why did Jesus come to us? He came to seek and to save man. He came to be Light in the dark world ... to show us the way to God ... to be the way to God.

## What did Jesus do for us?

Other religions are about us trying to gain God's approval. Christianity is about what God has done for us. Jesus' death on the cross is the one event that makes it possible for us to get right with God. He paid for our sins. He died for us.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." John 10:11

"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

"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

Jesus paid the price for us. "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.

What did Jesus do for us? He gave His life for us. He died on the cross to pay for our sins.

## 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 solution. 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 can improve our moral and ethical behavior ... but 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. Justice must be met. Improving our behavior isn't enough ... that only makes our record get worse more slowly.

You may not have committed any big sins. However, 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. We are far from perfect. God requires payment for our record of 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.

Why is the cross important to you? It is important because it is the place where Jesus paid for your sins. Eternal life is free to you ... but Jesus paid for it with His death on the cross. However, that gift isn't yours unless you do one thing.

## What does God want you to do?

Some men asked, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" and 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 its engines somewhere in mid-flight. 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 also requires an active response of your will. You must believe in the parachute to be saved by the parachute. When you 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.

What does God want you to do? 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 one most important question...

*Will you put your faith in Jesus right now?*

That is the most important question that you will ever be asked. Only you can answer it. Your answer is the most important one 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. 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 way 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 need to settle this once and for all.

## What will you choose?

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 us. However, our sin separates us from Him. He is perfect ... and we are imperfect. The wrong things that we have done keep us from Him. That is our problem ... separation from God. The good news is that He has done something about this separation. He loved us ... and sent Jesus to solve the problem. Jesus, being God, died on the cross to pay for our sins. That is God's part of the solution. Our 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.

If you haven't believed in Jesus, you will 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 your decision is really a risky form of saying no. There is no second chance beyond the grave, Hebrews 9:27. Make today be your day of salvation. 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? Or will you choose Jesus? Make the right choice. Say I do to Jesus. It is easy to do ... easy for you. 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.

Did you say that prayer? If you did, continue to the next page.

If you aren't sure about taking this step, please continue on to page 8.

## Congratulations!

By saying that prayer, you became God's child. "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 have been born into God's family. There is joy in heaven because you believed in Jesus. It is a joyous day. "I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Luke 15:10.

The Bible has great promises. Jesus gave three of them as He said, "Truly, truly, 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. You now have eternal life as your present possession ... you won't be condemned for your sins ... 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 aren't holding on to Him. He is stronger than anyone and everyone ... even stronger than you are. No one can pull you out of His all-powerful hand. Nothing can separate you from Him, Romans 8:35-39.

Jesus said, "Everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven." Matthew 10:32. That word *confesses* means *publicly acknowledges ... means tells someone*. You can do that easily by telling John, the author of this site, by email at [MyStep@911GOD.org](mailto:MyStep@911GOD.org). Publicly acknowledge Christ by telling John that you have just now taken your step of faith by believing in Jesus.

You have just begun a new adventure as a child of God. You now have special privileges. 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. Prayer is talking to God. Talk to Him. Don't worry about how you sound. 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. The Bible is God's message to you ... 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 ... spend time in His Word every day. Suggestions on how to choose a Bible are on the next page.

On [www.911GOD.org](http://www.911GOD.org), four short lessons are available to help you begin your walk with God. On the 911GOD site, [click here](#) for a printable version of Bible Basics One. You might enjoy short daily bytes of God's Word at [www.eBread.org](http://www.eBread.org) and/or the free e-mail Bible lessons available at [www.eLessons.org](http://www.eLessons.org).

## How to choose a Bible...

There are three types of Bibles as far as language is concerned. Translations are the most accurate ... following the original languages most closely on a word-for-word basis. Dynamic equivalents are somewhat easier to read ... being more thought-for-thought than word-for-word translations. Paraphrases are the easiest to read ... conveying ideas more than details. Good translations include the New American Standard and the New King James. The New International Version (NIV) is a dynamic equivalent. The Living Bible and The Message are popular paraphrases.

Bibles without study aids are the simplest and least expensive. However, a good study Bible can be helpful ... providing commentary, footnotes, outlines, cross-references connecting similar verses, maps, and other resources. Translations, dynamic equivalents, and paraphrases are available in a variety of study Bibles. Good computer versions are also available. If you need more information or a specific recommendation for a printed or computer Bible, make your request at [contact@911GOD.org](mailto:contact@911GOD.org).

## For the unsure...

Thank you for continuing to this page. Saying that prayer without meaning it... would have been pointless. I am glad that you didn't do that. But keep thinking about taking your step of faith. It is important. 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 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 faith. Brief responses to some common questions begin below in Questions & Answers. If you need more detailed answers to these or other questions, contact the author of this site at [John@911GOD.org](mailto:John@911GOD.org). Your correspondence will be treated confidentially.

Be persistent in your search ... it is important. And when you are ready, go to page 5 for help in putting your faith in Christ.

## Questions & 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. In addition, 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 do ... 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. 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. However, 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.

### **Wasn't Jesus 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. What do you say ... was He a liar or was He God?

## **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. However, 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, 1 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. Moreover, 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 aren't 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. Moreover, 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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