
Introduction

Communication with God? We are able to talk to Him daily, just as you would communicate with a family member. How? You are able to talk to Him through prayer and He speaks to us through His written Word, the Bible. Your Bible is a key to your success as a Christian. Not because it has good stories but because it is the written Word of God.

God used people, just like you and I, to pen down His Word so that we can have to use as a road map on this Christian walk. He gave it so we could have examples on how to live, instruction on how to behave and so that we would know the wonderful love of our God and Savior.

Obviously in these few pages I can't possibly explain everything there is to understand about Jesus, His death on the cross, His resurrection and ascension into Heaven. I can only scratch the surface.

In this pamphlet we want to answer the question; "How are my sins forgiven?" We also want to stress the importance for a new Christian to begin talking daily with God and reading and studying their Bible. God's Word is alive and relevant today. It will grow in you as you work to lay down old habits and old ways of life.

Read on...

Talking to God

Obviously one of the most important things for a New Christian to do is begin talking with God. You are in a new relationship and, as will be explained later in this pamphlet, you are now able to go directly to God.

(Just as when you first begin a relationship with a boyfriend or girlfriend) There is a time of getting to know one another. You do this by communicating. You tell things you like, they do the same; and you begin to understand and know one another. Things are no different with God. You must now begin to speak with Him and allow Him to speak with you.

I'm asked often the question, "How do I pray?" Now, there are those who will try and tell you how to pray, but it's not as important how you pray as it is the quality of your time with God. Many mistake "prayer" as a religious incantation that you are supposed to say a certain way and at certain times. This may be the case in some churches, but church isn't what we are talking about. We are talking about your day to day life with God.

When you talk to God it's always best to honor Him first. Tell Him how wonderful He is, how much you appreciate the fact that He loved you enough to send Jesus to die on the cross for you. Thank Him for your home, job, etc. More importantly talk to Him like a child would talk to their Father. Honestly and openly. You can't tell Him anything that He doesn't already know. They why tell Him? Just like you know someone may love you, you still like to hear it. God wants that communication between the two of you. He is your Heavenly Father and He desires that type of relationship. Don't make the mistake of thinking God is some far away statue

that can never be reached. No, He is as close as the breath you breathe.

Paul tells us in I Thessalonians 5:17 that we should, “Pray without ceasing.” This doesn’t mean you are on your knees praying 24 hours a day but simply means you always have your communication open with God. As you grow in your Christian walk you will become more comfortable and familiar with talking to God and He to you. God can speak to you at any time. You can talk to Him at any time. It’s an attitude of prayer that we stay in. Always ready to listen, obey and follow Him.

How does God talk back?

God speaks to His children commonly in two ways. One, He speaks into our hearts and Spirit. Two, He speaks to us through His written Word which is the Bible.

It’s a wonderful practice to get into during your prayer life to always take time to allow God to speak back. Many people take their prayer time as opportunity just to tell God what they need and when they are done, they get up and walk away. How would this work with a friend, husband or wife? If you just told them all about you and never gave them opportunity to speak back? I’m sure it would not go very well.

Therefore it’s vastly important to always give God time to speak back to you. Allow Him to speak through His Word. Pray before you read the Word that He will help you understand and receive it. Read the Word so that God can direct you and instruct you. And then pray again asking God to keep you, guide you and direct you.

Let’s talk about your Bible.

The Word

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

The book of John is where I always like New Converts to begin reading. John gives us a wonderful account of who Jesus is and why He came. He also gives us wonderful account of the life of Jesus and His death on the cross.

If you read the first pamphlet in this series (*What Just Happened?*) I’m sure you saw on the back page that I left several Scriptures for you to refer to. This is for a purpose.

We put great emphasis on knowing the Word of God. I’m sure you have seen preachers use Bibles and perhaps even family members quoted you Scripture in an effort to get you “saved.”

However there is a much deeper truth about Scripture that every New Convert must know.

The Bible is not just words written on paper. It’s not just a 2000 year old book that we use for fun. It is much more than that! Go back to the Scripture at the top of this page where it says, “the Word was made flesh...”

Now I’m sure it may confuse you somewhat how a word can become flesh. But it wasn’t just a word. It was *The* Word. Jesus is the Word that became flesh.

Allow me to explain: The entire Bible is about Jesus. The Old Testament points to the coming of Jesus. The first four books of the New Testament (which includes John) tell about the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The rest of the New Testament is written that we may be instructed on how to live, become stronger Christians and learn about Jesus. The final book of the Bible, Revelation, tells us of what is yet to come in these last days.

While many think the Bible is just an old book let me assure you; The Bible is still very relevant in this day and age.

See, we believe that Jesus lived on this Earth, died on the cross and raised from the dead to Ascend into Heaven. In Heaven He still lives today. We believe that He is constantly interceding on our behalf before God the Father. This means that He acts as a mediator when we have a need, request or prayer that needs answered. He does this in order to fulfill the promises of God by supplying our needs, healing, saving and taking care of us, His children.

This is only part of why the Bible is so important!

How am I forgiven?

When Christ came to Earth He came to fulfill all the promises and commandments of God. He was conceived in the womb of a virgin by the Spirit of God. Therefore, He was not born under the same curse of Adam as the rest of us. You will remember that because of Adam and Eve's sin all men and women are born sinful in the eyes of God. Sin then automatically separates us from God which is why we all had to be "saved" in the first place.

Christ is the fulfillment of the law of God. In the Old Testament God set forth a system by which humanity could "pay" the penalty for their sins. Just like today if you commit a crime, there is a set of laws that assign certain penalties befitting each crime. These are then paid by the criminal by the means of money, time or both.

Obviously God didn't need money, so this system involved the blood of animals. That may make you cringe, but livestock was a precious commodity in that era. It truly was a sacrifice to kill an animal.

God put great emphasis on the shedding of blood. Leviticus 17:11 tells us the "life of the flesh is in the blood..." By the shedding of blood, life was given in order to pay for the death that sin causes. While you were in sin, you were a walking dead man or woman. You had no hope, Hell was your destination and hopelessness your eternity. But God has a greater plan for you. His Word says that "*He is not willing that any should perish.*" (2 Peter 3:9) Even though God hates sin, He loves you enough to provide a way of escape.

Notice though, the blood sacrifice only paid for sin, it didn't remove them from record. Today if committed of a crime it stays on your "permanent" record. But this isn't the case with God! Read on to learn something very exciting!

How does this make a difference?

“Therefore as by the offense of one (Adam) *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one (Jesus) *the free gift (Salvation) came* upon all men unto justification of life.” (Romans 5:18)

God had a plan. God always has a plan. God knew the frailty of man’s ability to be obedient to Him. So God sent His Son to die for you and me. He did this so that His own law could be fulfilled once and for all. God no longer wanted man to have to pay for sins by animal sacrifice, but instead, wanted to provide a way for man’s sins to be removed *permanently*.

When you asked Jesus into your heart and asked Him to make you a New Creature and forgive your sins, something greater than what you even realized happened. God is Eternal—meaning time doesn’t constrain Him. By the blood of Jesus, which was pure in the sight of God, your sins are erased from your record forever. God doesn’t see the things you have done wrong in the past. He doesn’t look at you with disappointment in His eyes, or condemnation because of what you used to be. No, after you are saved God sees a brand new person, clean, white, and pure and 100% sinless!

Why is this so important? Because now when God looks at you he sees nothing to separate you and Him. Sin separates us from God and hinders our relationship with Him. You can now have a daily relationship with God, just as He desired when He created Adam and Eve. Hallelujah! That is wonderful stuff.

Would any of you send your child to die for anyone else? Probably not, but He did.

For God so loved the world (you), that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)

Importance of the Bible

Now through the written Word, which is the Bible, and through prayer we can begin developing a Father/Child relationship with God.

Because of Jesus, your sins are erased and you now have unobstructed access to God. (Going Spiritually to Him is no different than going to ask your parents, friend or neighbor for something.) There is nothing stopping your access. Hebrews 4:16 says, *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*

We can now **boldly** go before God and ask for help. He’s a wonderful Father and promises to meet our needs. Not our wants, but our needs.

The Bible becomes essential to your spiritual growth. You won’t continue relationship with God without it. You won’t conquer your addictions without it. You just can’t do it without learning the Word of God. It must get inside of you and begin to grow.

It is a living Word, just as Christ lives today. As you read the Bible, Jesus will make it live within you and you will begin to see how applicable it is today. You will begin to see that events that are happening today were prophesied by the authors over 2000 years ago. You will begin to see that the same struggles you have, many of these men and women in the Bible dealt with as well. There you can find the answers to help change your life as you strive to live for Jesus.

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In Closing

Obviously we know that we can't possibly cover all of the information that you need in these few pages. This is just a guide to give an idea of what you need to work on.

Again I say, read the Word of God at the very least daily. Read it as often as you can. You will find answers in it. It's a road map. It's a light for your feet in a dark day. God speaks to His children through His written Word as well as in our hearts.

This is where church attendance becomes very important. By attending church you begin to hear the Word of God preached by men who have prayed and asked God to give them the message they should preach. God will speak to you through the preacher as He preaches the Word. Also at church, you will find others who have been through your experiences or who can understand you and help you face your struggles.

If you don't own a Bible tell someone that you need one.

Quickly.

Be sure and get the next pamphlet in this line of teachings!

Scripture for you.

Hebrews 4:12

(12) For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Romans 8:1

(1) *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Romans 6:6

(6) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Psalms 103:8-14 (MSG Bible)

(8) GOD is sheer mercy and grace; not easily angered, he's rich in love.

(9) He doesn't endlessly nag and scold, nor hold grudges forever.

(10) He doesn't treat us as our sins deserve, nor pay us back in full for our wrongs.

(11) As high as heaven is over the earth, so strong is his love to those who fear him.

(12) And as far as sunrise is from sunset, he has separated us from our sins.

(13) As parents feel for their children, GOD feels for those who fear him.

(14) He knows us inside and out, keeps in mind that we're made of mud.
