

How to get closer to God

You may have enjoyed the journaling which you have read in "[The Secret Place](#)" and long to be able to have the same kind of experience in your own life. You may want to improve your relationship with God. Or, you may want to be sure that you will go to heaven when you die. The wonderful thing is, you can! Here's how...

The Bible teaches that God hungers to share His love with you. In the Garden of Eden, God walked and talked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day. That is what God wants to do with each of us, also. He yearns to be able to share His love with us and have us share our hearts with Him daily. As our Creator and Sustainer, He knows what we need even more than we do, and He answers our questions even before we ask.

God's heart was broken when sin entered Adam and Eve's lives and stole away the relationship He had with them. The tempter tempted Adam and Eve to live like gods rather than enjoy the flow of God's life through them. In choosing to look to self rather than looking beyond to the wonderful Giver of Life, Adam and Eve cut off much of the flow of God within them.

So God sent His Son, Jesus of Nazareth, in the form of a man, to remove the sin which separated humanity's heart from the heart of God. By entering the world as a man, God was able to take the sins of the entire world upon His shoulders and pay the penalty of this separation by allowing His Son, Jesus Christ, to be separated from Him for a moment. Jesus cried while dying on the cross, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" However, in forsaking His Son for a moment, God was restoring the opportunity for you and me to return to the experience of the Garden of Eden and, once again, have fellowship with Almighty God. Once again, we could walk with Him in the cool of the day and share our lives with Him and have God share His life with us.

So our relationship with God can be enhanced. We can be sure of going to heaven by receiving the sacrifice of Jesus' life for our sins. The steps are quite clearly laid out in the Bible.

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The steps to salvation are as follows:

1. Acknowledge there is sin in your life: For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).
2. Repent of sin by turning to God: "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out..." (Acts 3:19).
3. Confess that Jesus is Lord: "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).
4. Forsake your sin: "Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord...for He will freely pardon" (Isaiah 55:7).
5. Believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior: "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).
6. Receive - Invite Jesus into your heart: "He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:11,12).
7. Experience the Holy Spirit in your heart: "If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you" (Romans 8:11).

A Prayer of Response

If you want a closer relationship with God and to know that you will go to heaven when you die, then say the following prayer to God from the depths of your heart. Pray aloud, slowly, and meaningfully, staying open to experiencing the flow of your heart, including flowing pictures, words, and emotions.

"Precious Holy Spirit, do a work in my heart as I offer the following prayer to God.

"God, I come to You in the name of Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. I acknowledge that I

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have sinned and fallen short of Your ways. I repent of my sin and ask that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanse me of all my sins. I receive this cleansing even now as You sweep over my soul. I confess with my mouth that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Lord of my life. I invite You, Jesus, to be the first place in my heart and life.

"I believe God raised Jesus from the dead and that He is alive in my heart today. I forsake any evil ways and thoughts I have harbored, and this day turn my life over to Jesus. I ask, Jesus, that You fill my heart and mind with Your ways and thoughts and begin a transforming work from within my heart and my spirit.

"By believing in Jesus and His life within me, I have assured a place in heaven with God. I receive eternal life this day. Thank You, Lord Jesus Christ. Right now, I yield to the moving of the Holy Spirit within my spirit. Holy Spirit, please make this real in my heart and let me sense Your moving within me. May You seal this prayer this day."

Now, wait quietly for a few minutes in the presence of God and His Holy Spirit and see what you sense within. Lift your eyes to Jesus and humbly receive His life within your soul.

Record in your journal today's date and any impressions or sensations you received in your heart and soul as you prayed this prayer.

Taking your first steps as a Christian

If you have just prayed the above prayer, I invite you to obtain a copy of the Bible and begin reading, starting with Matthew. I recommend you download the free Bible software e-Sword (www.e-sword.net). It has free training videos and many translations to get you started meditating on the Bible. Also, I recommend the book *Basics in 21 Days* (www.cwgministries.org/store/basics-21-days) which begins teaching you how to live naturally supernatural in the first weeks of your Christian journey.