



## Establishing My Relationship with Jesus

Many people claim to have accepted Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for our sins, but the way they live has not changed much from before accepting Jesus. If your life has not changed, do you really know Him? Have you truly accepted the magnitude of what He has done for you?

We are not saved by our works, but our works are the result of our faith, love, and relationship with Jesus Christ. The real question is not just, “Do I believe?” The real question becomes, “**Do I know Him?**”

**Knowing Jesus starts with the position of my heart.**

*“Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” - James 2:17*

*“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’” - Matthew 7:21-23*

*“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” - Matthew 5:8*

*“You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.” - Jeremiah 29:13*

### What is the condition of my heart?

Do I truly want the truth, or am I just trying to confirm what I already believe? Am I willing to accept the truth, no matter what that means for my life?

- **What comes out of my mouth?**

*“But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart comes evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.” - Matthew 15:18-19*

- **What are the motives behind what I am doing?**

*“All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit.” - Proverbs 16:2*

- **Is my life producing the fruit of the Spirit?**

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” - Galatians 5:22-23*

### How do I align my heart with Jesus?

- **Surrender my heart to God**

*“Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” - 1 Samuel 16:7*



- **Ask God to search, test, and renew my heart**

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!” - Psalms 139:23-24*

*“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.” - Psalms 51:10*

*“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.” - Ezekiel 36:26*

- **Measure my thoughts and attitudes against Scripture**

*For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. - Hebrews 4:12*

*“All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” 2 Timothy 3:16*

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” - John 1:1*

- **Submit to God and resist sin**

*“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.” - James 4:7-10*

- **Guard my heart from what corrupts it**

*“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.” - Proverbs 4:23-27*

## How do I actively pursue a relationship with Jesus?

- **Seek Him with all my heart**

*“And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” - Jeremiah 29:13*

*“But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.” - Deuteronomy 4:29*

*“I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.” - Proverbs 8:17*

- **Choose faith—believing He is who He says He is**

*“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” - Hebrews 11:6*



- **Repent and turn from sin**

*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” - 1 John 1:9*

*“Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” - James 4:8*

- **Speak to God regularly**

*“Call to me and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.” - Jeremiah 33:3*

- **Abide in Him daily**

*“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” - John 15:4-5*

- **Love God fully**

*“Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment.” - Matthew 22:37-38*

*“We love him, because he first loved us” - John 4:19*

- **Walk in obedience out of Love:**

*“Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” - John 14:21*

*“We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God<sup>pl</sup> is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him.” - 1 John 2:3-5*

## The Result: Relationship with Jesus

Not just knowing about Him—but knowing Him

*“You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” - John 5:15*

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. - Romans 12:2*