

14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?^[c] And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" ROMANS 10:14-15

What does it take to begin a relationship with God? Devote yourself to unselfish religious deeds? Become a better person so that God will accept you?

Are most people surprised to discover that none of those things will work.

- God has made it very clear in the Bible how we can know Him.

The following **4 principles** will explain how you can personally begin a relationship with God, right now, through Jesus Christ...

Principle 1: God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life.

God's Love

"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

God's Plan

[Christ speaking] "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly" [that it might be full and meaningful]. JOHN 10:10

Why is it that most people are not experiencing the abundant life? Because...

Principle 2: All of us sin and our sin has separated us from God.

We Are Sinful "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." ROMANS 3:23

We were created to have fellowship with God; but, because of our stubborn self-will, we chose to go our own independent way, and fellowship with God was broken. This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference, is evidence of what the Bible calls sin.

We Are Separated "The wages of sin is death" [spiritual separation from God]. ROMANS 6:23

A great gulf separates us. We are continually trying to reach God and the abundant life through our own efforts, such as a good life, philosophy, or religion -- but we inevitably fail.

The third law explains the only way to bridge this gulf...

Principle 3: Jesus Christ is God's only provision for our sin. Through Him we can know and experience God's love and plan for our life.

He Died in Our Place ROMANS 5:8

"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

He Rose From the Dead 1 Corinthians 15:3-6

"Christ died for our sins...He was buried...He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures...He appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred..."

He Is the Only Way to God JOHN 14:6

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.'"

God has bridged the gulf which separates us from Him by sending His Son, Jesus Christ

It is not enough just to **know** these three principles...

Principle 4: We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

We Must Receive Christ

"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

We Receive Christ Through Faith

"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, that no one should boast." EPHESIANS 2:8-9

When We Receive Christ, We Experience a New Birth through Christ by Personal Invitation

[Christ speaking] "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him." REVELATIONS 3:20

Receiving Christ involves turning to God from self (repentance) and trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive our sins and to make us what He wants us to be. Just to agree intellectually that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for your sins is not enough. Nor is it enough to have an emotional experience. You receive Jesus Christ by faith, as an act of the will.

You can receive Christ right now by faith through prayer

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

"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be."

If this prayer expresses the desire of your heart, then you can pray this prayer right now and Christ will come into your life, as He promised.