

## **How to Have a Relationship with God, Your Heavenly Father**

(What the Bible Teaches - Scripture References from the NIV)

✓ *The Bible teaches that we are to examine our own spiritual condition.*

**2 Cor 13:5** Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you-unless, of course, you fail the test?

✓ *The Bible teaches that there is only one way to be saved from our sin.*

**John 14:6** Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**Acts 4:12** Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

**1 Tim 2:3-6** This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men-the testimony given in its proper time.

✓ *The Bible teaches that there are 4 principles that I must embrace in order for me to be in relationship with God.*

1. I must believe that I am a sinner. (*pisteuo*; believe = trust in, rely on, cling to, surrender to)

**Rom 3:23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

2. I must believe that my sin separates me from God now and for eternity.

**2 Thess 1: 8-9** He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power

3. I must believe that God's perfect Son, Jesus Christ, became sin on my behalf and paid the full penalty for that sin on the cross.

**2 Cor 5:21** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

4. Out of gratitude for Christ's sacrifice I must acknowledge Jesus as Lord (boss) and yield to His authority in my life.

**Rom 10:9** That 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. (*Kurios*; Lord= one in total authority)

*Are you a "Christ-liker" or a saved, spirit filled follower of Jesus Christ?*

**WHAT WILL YOU RECEIVE IF YOU HAVE THIS "REGIME CHANGE" AND  
BECOME A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST?**

*#1 You are assured a magnificent eternal life with God*

**John 3:36**

**Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."**

*#2 You will receive the Holy Spirit that enables you to truly change*

**Rom 8:11**

**And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.**

*#3 You can now understand and obey God's instruction manual for life (the Bible)  
and so enjoy a wonderful life here on earth*

**John 10:9-10**

**I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**

*#4 Persecution*

**2 Tim 3:12**

**In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,**

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**Eph 2:3-10**

**All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

