

4 STEPS TO FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD.

1. God wants you to come to Him.

Jesus said: I have come in order that you might have life-life in all its fulness. Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on you, and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light. John 10.10 and Matthew 11.28-30



2. Our sins have cut us off from God.

What the Lord requires of us is this: to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with our God. Micah 6.8

Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. Romans 3.23 For from the inside, from a person's heart, come the evil ideas which lead him to do immoral things, to rob, kill, commit adultery, be greedy, and do all sorts of evil things; deceit, indecency, jealousy, slander, pride, and folly-all these evil things come from inside a person and make him unclean. Mark 7.21-2

3. Jesus died to pay for your sins.

Jesus is the divine Son of God.

A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called, Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9.6

The angel said to her, Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. And the Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, and he will be king of the descendants of Jacob for ever; his kingdom will never end! Mary said to the angel, I am a virgin. How, then, can this be? The angel answered, The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. Luke 1.30-35



Jesus said, Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. John 14.9

Before the world was created, the Word already existed; he was with God, and he was the same as God...The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son. John 1.1,3 and 14

His life of love.

Jesus went round visiting all the towns and villages. He taught in the synagogues, preached the Good News about the Kingdom, and healed people with every kind of disease and sickness. As he saw the crowds, his heart was filled with pity for them, because they were worried and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Matthew 9.36-38

I am the good shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep...The Father loves me because I am willing to give up my life, in order that I may receive it back again... This is what my Father has commanded me to do. John 10.11,17-18



The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not be in want.
(Psalm 23:1)

Jesus committed no sin, and no one ever heard a lie come from his lips. When he was insulted, he did not answer back with an insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but placed his hopes in God, the righteous Judge. Christ himself carried our sins in his body to the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. It is by his wounds that you have been healed. You were like sheep that had lost their way, but now you have been brought back to follow the Shepherd and keeper of your souls. 1 Peter 2.22-25

His death was to pay for the sins of the whole world. God is just and must punish sin. The punishment is separation from God forever in a place of suffering called hell. So great was God's love for us that Jesus, his Son, who always wanted to please his Father, came to save us from the punishment our sins deserve. Jesus did this by taking the punishment himself. That is why he cried from the cross, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? He was cut off from his Father by our sins, suffering instead of us. Just before he died, Jesus said in a loud voice, It is finished, into your hands I commit my spirit, as he was reunited with God. It was a cry of victory: I've done it! The punishment for man's sin is paid! The way to God is open.



The next day John saw Jesus coming to him, and said, There is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! John 1.29

For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. John 3.16

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life to redeem many people. Matthew 20.28



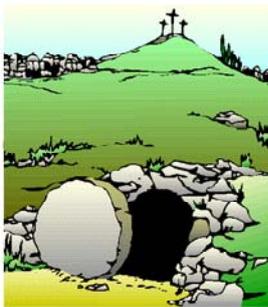
While they were eating, Jesus took a piece of bread, gave a prayer of thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples. Take and eat it, he said; this is my body. Then he took a cup, gave thanks to God, and gave it to them. Drink it, all of you, he said; this is my blood, which seals God's covenant, my blood poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Matthew 26.26-28

Because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received. All of us were like sheep that were lost, each of us going his own way. But the Lord made the punishment fall on him, the punishment all of us deserved. Isaiah 53.5-6

You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, proclaiming the Good News of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know of the great event that took place throughout the land of Israel, beginning in Galilee after John preached his message of baptism. You know about Jesus of Nazareth and how God poured out on him the Holy Spirit and power. He went everywhere, doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of everything that he did in the land of Israel and in Jerusalem. Then they put him to death by nailing him to a cross. But God raised him from death three days later and caused him to appear, not to everyone, but only to the witnesses that God had already chosen, that is, to us who ate and drank with him after he rose from death. And he commanded us to preach the gospel to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God has appointed judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets spoke about him, saying that everyone who believes in him will have his sins forgiven through the power of his name. Acts 10.36-43



On the third day God raised him from death. His resurrection proves that Jesus is really God's Son, which is what he claimed, and that his death is sufficient in God's eyes to pay for everyone's sins, which he said it would be. Jesus is alive now to help us stop being selfish and to get straight with God and with other people. He will fill us with his love, joy and power. We can conquer death if we turn to Jesus because God will someday raise us up in a resurrection body like his body and we will be with him forever.



The Good News was promised long ago by God through his prophets, as written in the Holy Scriptures. It is about his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ: as to his humanity, he was born a descendant of David; as to his divine holiness, he was shown with great power to be the Son of God by being raised from death. Through him God gave me the privilege of being an apostle for the sake of Christ, in order to lead people of all nations to believe and obey. Romans 1.1-5

Christ himself carried our sins in his body to the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. 1 Peter 2.24

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. John 11.25-26

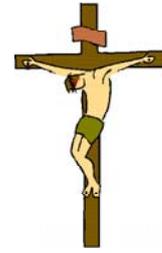
Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, This is what is written: the Messiah must suffer and must rise from death three days later, and in his name the message about repentance and the forgiveness of sins must be preached to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. Luke 24.45-47

4. You must repent [give up your sins] and trust God to save you [trust Jesus to save you].

Jesus went to Galilee and preached the Good News from God. The right time has come, he said, and the kingdom of God is near! Turn away from your sins and believe the Good News! Mark 1.14-15

But now God's way of putting people right with himself has been revealed... God puts people right through their faith in Jesus Christ. God does this to all who believe in Christ, because there is no difference at all: everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence. But by the free gift of God's grace all are put right with him through Christ Jesus, who sets them free. God offered him, so that by his death he should become the means by which people's sins are forgiven through their faith in him. Romans 3.21-25

We are ruled by the love of Christ, now that we recognise that one man died for everyone, which means that all share in his death. He died for all, so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but only for him who died and was raised to life for their sake.. Here we are, then, speaking for Christ, as though God himself were making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf: let God change you from enemies into his friends! Christ was without sin, but for our sake God made him share our sin [be punished for our sins] in order that in union with him [through trusting and obeying him] we might share the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5.14-15 and 20-21



Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. (1 Timothy 1.15)

God wants us to stop doing wrong things and only do good things. He also wants us to trust Jesus for forgiveness and help when needed. We may find it hard giving up some wrong things or we may be laughed at. But it is worth it.

What God commands is that we believe in his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, Just as Christ commanded us. 1 John 3.23

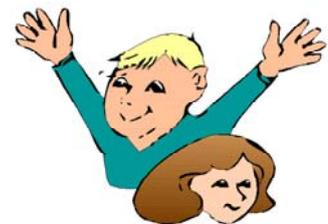
Then Jesus said to his disciples, If anyone wants to come with me, he must forget self, carry his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his own life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 16.24

Do you want to turn to him? Then you could pray like this. It is not the actual words but your attitude to Jesus that counts. Lord Jesus, I am sorry for my sins and want to turn from everything I know is wrong. I accept that you died to pay for my sins. I trust you to come into my life as Saviour to take away my sins and make me right with God and will try to obey you as Lord to become the kind of person you want me to be. Thank you for your love and forgiveness.

I am the bread of life, Jesus told them, He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6.35

I am the light of the world, he said. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness. John 8.12

Jesus answered him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me. John 14.6



TO CONTINUE..

Pray about your concerns.

Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. And God's peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus. Philippians 4.6-7

I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father's glory will be shown through the Son...If you remain in me and my words remain in you, then you will ask for anything you wish, and you shall have it. John 14.13-14 and 15.7

Then you will know that I am the Lord; no one who waits for my help will be disappointed. Isaiah 49.23

Jesus answered them, Have faith in God. I assure you that whoever tells this hill to get up and throw itself in the sea and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. For this reason

I tell you: When you pray and ask for something, believe that you have received it, and you will be given whatever you ask for. And when you stand and pray, forgive anything you may have against anyone, so that your Father in heaven will forgive the wrongs you have done. Mark 11.22-25

Read the Bible a bit at a time. Start with the New Testament.

The Bible is our guide and comforter.

Jesus answered, Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it; Love your neighbour as you love yourself. The whole Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commandments. Matthew 22.37-40

Love your enemies and do good to them; lend and expect nothing back. You will then have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High God. For he is good to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge others and God will not judge you; do not condemn others, and God will not condemn you; forgive others and God will forgive you. Give to others, and God will give to you. Indeed, you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into your hands-



I will always thank the Lord; I will never stop praising him. Psalm 34:1

all that you can hold. The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you. Luke 6.35-38

Be under obligation to no one—the only obligation you have is to love one another. Whoever does this has obeyed the Law. The commandments, Do not commit adultery; do not commit murder; do not steal; do not desire what belongs to someone else—all these, and any others besides, are summed up in the one command, Love your neighbour as you love yourself. If you love someone, you will never do him wrong; to love, then, is to obey the whole Law. Romans 13.8-10



Help to carry one another's burdens.
(Galatians 6:2)

Help to carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will obey the law of Christ. Galatians 6.

Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants from you in your life in union with Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5.16-17

Your life must be controlled by love, just as Christ loved us and gave his life for us as a sweet-smelling offering and

sacrifice that pleases God. Since you are God's people, it is not right that any matters of sexual immorality or indecency or greed should even be mentioned among you. Nor is it fitting for you to use language that is obscene, profane, or vulgar. Rather you should give thanks to God. You may be sure that no one who is immoral, indecent, or greedy [for greed is a form of idolatry] will ever receive a share in the Kingdom of Christ and of God. Do not let anyone deceive you with foolish words; it is because of these very things that God's anger will come on those who do not obey him. Ephesians 5.2-6

The Lord says, Now let's settle the matter. You are stained red with sin, but I will wash you as clean as snow. Although your sins are deep red, you will be as white as wool. Isaiah 1.18

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and there is no truth in us. But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing. 1 John 1.8

I am the high and holy God, who lives for ever. I live in a high and holy place, but I also live with people who are humble and repentant, so that I can restore their confidence and hope. Isaiah 57.15

Our High Priest is not one who cannot feel sympathy for our weaknesses. On the contrary, we have a High Priest who was tempted in every way that we are, but did not sin. Let us be brave, then, and approach God's throne, where there is grace. There we will receive mercy and find grace to help us just when we need it. Hebrews 4.14-16



If someone has done you wrong,
do not repay him with a wrong. (Romans 12:17)

Lord, if my brother keeps on sinning against me, how many times do I have to forgive him? Seven times? No, not seven times, answered Jesus, but seventy times seven. Matthew 18.22 [read to 35]

The Lord is merciful and loving, slow to become angry and full of constant love...he does not punish us as we deserve or repay us for our sins and wrongs. As high as the sky is above the earth, so great is his love for those who honour him. As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our sins from us. As kind as a father is to his children, so kind is the Lord to those who honour him. He knows what we are made of; he remembers that we are dust. Psalm 103.8,10-14

Start to attend a church. Visit a Christian bookshop. Check 'Bookshops' in Yellow pages or ask your librarian.

I urge that petitions, prayers, requests, and thanksgivings be offered to God for all people...this is good and pleases God our Saviour, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to know the truth. For there is one God, and there is one who brings God and mankind together, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself to redeem all mankind. 1 Timothy 2.1,3-6

Consider telling others about Jesus. Start with people you know, and give them a booklet or leaflet like this.



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