

4 Steps to Knowing God

by Dr. Bill Bright

The following are 4 principles that explain how to know God in a personal relationship. God created us to love us and to be in loving relationship with him. It is so simple that a child can understand it, yet few of us adults have really comprehended it. I pray that this will bring clarity to your spiritual journey and start you on the great experience of having God as your best friend.



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 NIV).

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...

2. Man is Sinful and Separated from God. He cannot experience God's love.



Man Is Sinful

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

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

Man Is Separated

"The wages of sin is death" [spiritual separation from God] (Romans 6:23)

This diagram illustrates that God is holy and man is sinful. A great gulf separates the two. The arrows illustrate that man is continually trying to reach God and the abundant life through his own efforts, such as a good life, philosophy, or religion - but he inevitably fails.



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

3. Jesus Christ is God's Only Provision for Man's Sin.

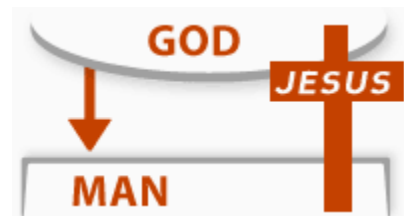


He Died in Our Place "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

He Rose From the Dead "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..." (1 Corinthians 15:3-6).

He Is the Only Way to God "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me'" (John 14:6).

This diagram illustrates that God has bridged the gulf which separates us from Him by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place to pay the penalty for our sins.



It is not enough just to know these three laws...

4. We must Individually Receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.



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

"Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.' " (John 3:3).

We Receive 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" (Revelation 3:20).

These two circles represent two kinds of lives:

	<p>1. The Self-directed life</p> <p>Self is on the throne. Interests are directed by self, resulting in discord and frustration. Christ is outside the person's life.</p>
	<p>2. The Christ-directed life</p> <p>Christ is on the throne. Self is yielding to Christ. Interests are directed by Christ, resulting in harmony with God's plan.</p>

Which circle best describes your life?

Which circle would you like to have represent your life?

God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart.

Would you like to pray our suggested prayer?



NOW WHAT?

To Know God, it is as easy as a prayer....

Giving your life to Jesus is an act of faith that you can express through prayer.

Praying is simply talking to God. He knows you. What matters is the attitude of your heart, your honesty. We suggest you pray the following prayer:

"Lord Jesus, I thank you for your love and that you came into the world to die for me. I confess that I have directed my own life and that I have therefore sinned against God. I now want to put my trust in you and receive you in my life. Thank you for forgiving my sins. Make me the person you want me to be. I thank you that you answered my prayer and that you are now in my life. Amen."

Is it the desire of your heart to make this prayer yours?

If yes, pray now and according to his promise, Jesus Christ will come into your life.

If you've prayed this prayer we suggest you tell someone and get connected with a local church that can help you learn more about how to know God better.

