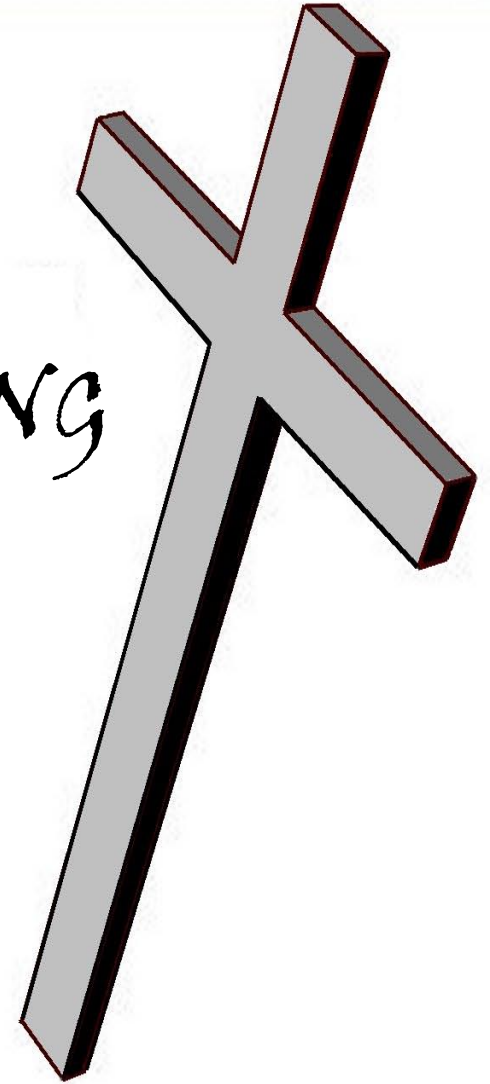


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Written by SAR

FINDING  
JESUS



DISCOVER GOD

In today's world where morals and values constantly being removed or changed, people no longer know or understand right and wrong, so the laws of the land are bent and changed to please the purpose of the time. What is the standard for right and wrong, and who enforces that standard in a world gone crazy? In God's written Word called the Bible, we are taught in the book of Proverbs, chapter 14, verse 12

**[Proverbs 14:12]** *There is a way, which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*

God has a set of laws that He enforces; they are not open to negotiation and no attorney can bend them to suit the purposes of the day. You have responsibility to find out what God's laws are and to decide if you are going to obey those laws. It is the failure to keep God's laws that separates you from the relationship God wants with you. Breaking God's laws also keeps you from all the benefits of a relationship with God. The breaking of God's laws is called sin, and sin is what separates you from God. Sin fails to bring glory to God and is not part of God's plan or purpose for your life. The Bible teaches in Romans 3:23 and 6:23 and in John 8:34.

**[Romans 3:23]** *all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*

**[Romans 6:23]** *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**[John 8:34]** *Jesus answered them, Truly, truly, I say to you, Whoever practices sin is the slave of sin.*

The payment for your sin is death. Sin brings death and sickness into your life. Whether you have jealousy, lust, pride, adultery or a host of other sins, ultimately, your sin leads to death. When you die, if you are not in right-standing with God, your sin takes you to eternity in the lake of fire called hell. Jesus Christ came that you might have life.

## **UNCONDITIONAL LOVE**

**[John 10:10]** *The thief does not come except to steal and to kill and to destroy. I have come so that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

**[John 3:16]** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

**[John 15:13]** *No one has greater love than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

burial service for your old sin nature. Being baptized becomes a focal point in your new life which you can look back on and remember the day you permanently buried your old sinful way of life and all the condemnation and guilt that would try to come from that old sin way. Making Jesus Christ the Lord of your life gave you forgiveness for all the sin you committed and being baptized shows you have cut off the old sin you were forgiven from and buries it. Baptism is an outward sign of an inward work of God's grace. Although Jesus committed no sin, He was baptized by immersion to show you need to be baptized.

## **AN OVERCOMING LIFE**

**[Romans 8:1]** *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

**[John 8:36]** *Therefore if the Son (Jesus) shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.*

**[1 John 1:9]** *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Having Jesus in your heart does not make everything you do perfect. But God's unconditional love never changes and it is important to allow God to show you by His Holy Spirit when you do wrong. God loved you enough to find you even when you may not have known you were lost. So remember, God does not have a big stick to hit you with when you do wrong. On the contrary God sent Jesus to die on the cross for your sin so that through Jesus, God could draw you close to Himself.

Even with Jesus in your heart, if you commit sin, confess that sin to God and ask God to forgive you in the name of Jesus and move on from the sin. The Bible refers to sin as a chain because sin holds us bound like a chain until Jesus sets us free from the chains of sin and the habits sin forms in our lives. If you struggle with a bad habit, ask Jesus to help break that habit in your life. A very important principle to live out of is the knowledge that God does not focus on your sin. God has a desire to focus on forgiving your sin and helping you to overcome sin in every area of your life. In Jesus Christ you are an over comer. Learn to live like one.

Perfect love is giving yourself fully and having someone do the same towards you. Allow a love to develop for God in appreciation for what God has done for you. Out of obedience and love, you will want to please God in any way you can. Living like this helps take away your desire for sin and makes your greatest desire to please the God who you love so much. ♦

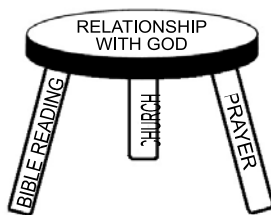
Finding a good church is essential to any relationship with God. To worship God in unity with other believers brings a blessing you can only get by worshipping God with others. A life in God should be one of giving to others as God gave to you. Not only do you need church, **church needs you**. Just like you should represent God to the world around you, church should represent God to the society around it.

The greatest sign of a healthy church is when you see God's heart flowing through it. That heart you will learn about from reading the Bible. Jesus died on a cross for your sin even when you did not deserve it or care about it. **God accepted you**, not your sin, and He loved you enough to forgive you when you asked for it. Jesus removes the chains of sin that had you bound and stays with you to love you into overcoming sin. Even when you make mistakes God's love never changes. Look for this heart of God in a good Bible-believing church. Remember, churches are places where people come to learn, and people are at different stages of learning. Through your daily prayer life with God, ask where the right church is for you and act on what God tells you.

If you feel you need help to find a good church, please fill out the attached card and we will contact and assist you.

#### **4. THREE ESSENTIALS**

Like this stool your relationship with Jesus has three essential areas or legs to support and keep it healthy. These essentials are **PRAYER, BIBLE READING, and CHURCH**.



#### **5. BAPTISM BY IMMERSION WHAT IS IT AND WHY?**

**[Mark 16:16]** *He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned.*

**[Acts 2:38]** *Then Peter said to them, repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ to remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

**[Acts 10:48]** *And he **commanded** them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.*

**[Acts 22:16]** *And now why do you delay? Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*

To be baptized is a **command** in the Bible that involves being briefly dipped completely under water. Being baptized shows you are once and for all turning your back on your old life of sin. It says my old life is dead and in Jesus Christ and I am raised new, making baptism a

God loved you so much He sent His only son Jesus to pay the price for your sin. You see, every crime or sin committed by you against God's laws carries the death penalty, the penalty of eternity in hell. God is a God of justice who does not bend the rules for anyone, rich or poor; the standard is set. A man can ask "how can a loving God sentence me to hell?" That man is measuring by his own perverted standard. We must look to God who sets a righteous and unbiased standard for man's life.

Jesus Christ came to earth born of a virgin. He lived without sin and is the only man to have never committed any kind of sin. He was born to die, born to pay the price with His blood for all the wrong you have done. Jesus Christ was crucified on a cross, and Jesus took all your sin and sickness on Himself when He was crucified. By His actions He said, "God, today I pay for their sin with my blood." The death of Jesus that day paid the price for every man and woman's sin when they enter into life with Jesus. He paid the price for your sin even when you did not know Him or even care. Jesus died for you, though He was and is faultless. After Jesus died, He rose again from the dead, because death could not hold Him. As death comes from sin and Jesus never committed any sin. He just took yours.

The whole purpose of Jesus was to take your sins upon Himself in order to restore your relationship with God. You have broken God's laws and deserve death and hell. **Jesus paid your debt in full**. Jesus took the punishment for your sin on Himself when He died. But because Jesus was sinless death could not hold Him, so Jesus rose from the dead three days after His death and ascended to heaven to stand in for us before God to ask forgiveness for our sin.

#### **NEW LIFE IN JESUS**

Beginning a relationship with God is very simple. The first step is to be **honest** with yourself and God, to see that your life has been based in sin and its pleasures. You must admit to yourself and to God you have sinned and have broken God's laws. After admitting you have sinned, take responsibility for your actions and **confess** to God what your sins are. Begin to tell God the things you want forgiveness for, the acts of sin you have committed. Start with what you remember and let God bring to your remembrance anything He wants you to mention. God has seen every sin you ever committed against Him, so be totally open and honest with God. Confessing your sin to God is essential and **asking forgiveness** usually takes time and emotion. This act is called repenting, the Bible teaches in

**[Acts 3:19]** *Therefore repent and convert so that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.*

**[Romans 2:4]** *Or do you despise the riches of His kindness, and the forbearance and long-suffering, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?*

**[Luke 15:10]** *Likewise I say to you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.*

**[Romans 10:9-11]** *Because if you confess the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth one confesses unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Everyone believing on Him shall not be put to shame."*

**[John 8:36]** *Therefore if the Son shall make you free, **you shall be free indeed.***

#### **FOUR IMPORTANT STEPS TO NEW LIFE**

- 1. Take the time to confess your sin to God and ask forgiveness of God for your sin.**
- 2. Speak out or confess that you believe Jesus died on the cross for your sin to pay the price for ALL your wrong doing with His own blood and thank Him for doing so.**
- 3. Believe in your heart, God raised Jesus from the dead.**
- 4. Invite Jesus into your life to stay and speak out your commitment to follow Him.**

Once you have done this, allow God to teach you how to live a victorious life overcoming sin and sickness. The blood of Jesus bought you the right to a relationship with God that is not based in religion but in a love for God. In your relationship with God, it is important to see God forgives you for your crimes against Him and to see you are now a new creation in Christ Jesus. As far as God is concerned, your record is perfect and clean. It will continue to stay perfect and clean as long as you walk in God's ways in your heart and life and confess your sins to Him.

**[2 Corinthians 5:17]** *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

#### **1. TALKING TO GOD**

**[1 Thessalonians 5:17]** *Pray without ceasing.*

A relationship with God has some things needed to ensure the growth of that relationship. First of all, prayer or talking and listening to God in Jesus' name is essential. Now you have asked Jesus into your heart, it is important to learn how to hear His voice. Prayer is talking respectfully to your best friend. You can talk to God anywhere at anytime; you do not have to be on your knees but you do need to remember you are talking with the living God who created the heavens and the earth. To tell God your heart is the right thing to do. Talk with Him about the events of your day and the events of your life. You can ask for help and thank Him when it comes. Remember God is not looking to beat you with a big stick for your mistakes. He sent His Son Jesus, to replace the big stick with grace to forgive you. Learn what the true never-ending love of God is and learn to love your God through prayer.

#### **2. READING GODS' WORD**

**[2 Timothy 2:15]** *Study earnestly to present yourself approved to God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.*

Secondly, Bible reading is essential to help understand a life in God. The Bible teaches you God's laws and shows you His grace or willingness to forgive. The Bible is our manual for life, so to read the Bible daily is healthy in relationship with God. The Bible is many small books made into one big book. Often the best place to begin reading is in the New Testament in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. These books are great foundational books to help give an understanding of a life lived in God.

#### **3. WHY CHURCH AND WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A CHURCH?**

**[Hebrews 10:25]** *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

**[Psalms 133:1, 133:3]** *Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity! like the dew of Hermon that came down on the mountains of Zion; for there Lord commanded the blessing, life forevermore.*