

Spirit and Word



How to Get Started with God

You may want an introduction

You are already on a spiritual journey. You have asked: “Is this all there is?” You wonder about inner emptiness. “There has got to be more” (and there is!). What is right? With ethical and moral failure all around, you wonder: “Am I okay?” You have had glimpses. What do you do with that truth you have seen?

Like other relationships, you may want help in getting introduced. How can you make a connection with God? How can you get started?

It is easy, because He is eager to connect with you. He loves you and is looking for you right now.

Genuine Christ followers are the fastest-growing spiritual movement on planet earth today. People all over the world are following Jesus. And you can too.

Stakes are high. If you miss God it will make a difference for you now and after you die. So get started now.

Use one of these steps as a way to start your journey. You may also want to spend time with some people who may be a bit farther down the road than you are right now. They will be happy to help you.

Your Journey – some first steps

Try one of these steps. Or try more than one. People have launched life-changing relationships with all of them.

1. Reality Check

Simple say: “God, if you are real, show yourself to me.”

This is powerful – watch what happens next for you.

2. 30-Day Free Trial

Try out a relationship with God for a month.

Simply act as if God was in your life and see what happens.

3. Bible Encounter

Read the book of John from the Bible and ask for an encounter with God.

This biography of Jesus will put you in contact with the activity of God.

4. The Power Encounter

Ask for a show of force to contrast Jesus with the competition.

Just ask God to show His superiority to other spiritual stuff.

5. It would take a miracle

OK, identify a specific prayer request and ask for a miracle in your life.

Be honest about your need and open to His answers.

6. Dreams and visions

God may call to you this way as you are open to Him.

Take action on His call.

7. Read a book describing the truth about Jesus.

If you like to read, try something like “More Than a Carpenter” by Josh McDowell and Sean McDowell a Tyndale House paperback for \$5.00.

8. The scientific approach

Study and investigate a couple scientific arguments about God.

As you resolve your questions, turn to the God who invented science

9. Take a spiritual retreat

Set aside special time a weekend or three days to encounter God

Let the Holy Spirit touch you, let him whisper to you or shake you.

10. Pray the Prayer

Say a classic prayer to invite Christ into your life.

You may want to skip ahead to the next section on crossing the line of faith.

Your discoveries

All of these steps can put you in contact with Jesus. He said that He is the Way the Truth and the Life and that people can connect with the Father through Him.

The point is a relationship. You can have a personal connection with God for now and forever. He will make a difference for you.

Move to the next part of your spiritual journey in the next section on crossing the line of faith. You will be glad you did.

From the Bible

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love-- not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us.

Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. All who confess that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God.

We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world. Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.

We love each other because he loved us first.

If someone says, "I love God," but hates a Christian brother or sister, that person is a liar; for if we don't love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see? And he has given us this command: Those who love God must also love their Christian brothers and sisters.

(1 John 4:7-21 NLT)