

How to Get Ahold of God

In the days that are coming, there will be nowhere to run. Our only hope is in knowing the Lord. But few are even interested in pursuing Him. Even though He is always by the side of every person, the vast majority – including Christians – rarely study the Bible in-depth, do NOT know God, do NOT follow His Word, and certainly do NOT hear His voice.

When I ask people, including Christians, “Why are we on this earth?” Some respond, “To be happy”, others say, “To help people”, others say, “To make the world a better place, others just say, “I don’t know.”

But virtually NO ONE gives the right answer, which is: We are here for one reason and one reason only - **to get to KNOW God and to learn to TRUST God with everything in our life.**

Christians worry as much as non-Christians

Christians show they don’t know - or trust - God because they worry as much as non-Christians, they take as many drug medications as non-Christians, and they even lie as much as non-Christians, as revealed in the book, “The Day America Told the Truth.”

“We did these things in Your Name”

It is obvious that, in the following Bible passage, Jesus is speaking of Christians, because they did things “in Christ’s name.”

Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven.

Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? And in Thy name have cast out devils? And in Thy name done many wonderful works?

And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you, depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.**” Matt 7:21-23

What is your motivation for finding God? To avoid hell? To secure eternal life?

Neither of these are adequate reasons for getting ahold of God. Those motivations are for the future, not the present, but they don’t even work for the

future because they are self-serving, and basically, they are selfish reasons. Christians talk a lot about eternal life, but the words eternal, everlasting, and forever and ever aren't even in the Bible. The literal words are eon or eonian – and they do NOT mean “eternal.”

Getting ahold of God gives you *eonian* life, which means having the life of Christ in you so you exhibit His character and disposition in your daily life – becoming a New Creation in Christ. You must have *eonian* life BEFORE you are ready for eternal life – to live with Christ forever. Yet, most Christians have no concept of what that really means.

You will NOT find God in a church – any church! Why?

Even those who Publish the Bible, Translate the Bible, and Preach from the Bible - Don't Believe the Bible!

Then Why Should I Believe It?

The Old Testament was written approximately 3,000 years ago, whereas the New Testament was written about 2,000 years ago. The Bible is the Word of God – the Words of God – written by authors who were inspired by God.

Unfortunately, Christians treat the Bible as just another book that can be changed at will. Translators translate the Bible according to their own preconceived theology. But they are not the only ones desecrating God's Word.

The Publishers, even in their maps, at the beginning or end of the Bible, show their total disbelief of the Word of God.

1. They don't believe God really opened the Red Sea for the Israelites to cross to escape the Egyptians. The map of the Exodus, in the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible published by Zondervan, does NOT show the Israelites crossing through the Red Sea.
2. “God is the Savior of ALL mankind; especially of those who believe.” 1 Tim 4:10. This explanation of this text, in the notes in the NIV perverts it completely, stating that it means the OPPOSITE of what it really says.

“Obviously this does not mean that God saves every person from eternal punishment, for such universalism would contradict the clear testimony of Scripture. God is, however, the Savior of all in that He OFFERS salvation to all and saves all who come to Him.”

What a pity that even those who try to “explain” the Bible, do so according to their own preconceived beliefs – the beliefs of “man” – rather than by the clear words of Jesus Christ in the Bible!

3. Many words have been added to the Bible which are NOT in the original manuscripts, including:
 - a. the word “hell” instead of the literal translation: “grave, or unseen”
 - b. the word “hope” instead of the literal translation “expectation”
 - c. the words condemnation and damnation
 - d. the word “destroyed” instead of the literal “lost, waiting to be found”
 - e. “first day of the week” instead of Sabbath (the seventh day of the week)
 - f. “Justice” instead of the literal translation “righteousness”
 - g. “fear God” instead of the literal translation “reverence God” or “awe for God”
 - h. “God’s desire” instead of the literal translation “God’s WILL – or God’s INTENTION”

4. The NIV Bible, on its first page, contains a pagan Maltese cross.

Jesus said to the Pharisees of His time:

“You make the Scriptures of none effect by your traditions.”
Mark 7:13

The leaders of the Organized Church are the “Pharisees” of today. They “make the Scriptures of none effect” by their mistranslations, by their symbols and maps, and by their misinterpretations.

“Hold Fast to SOUND Words”

It’s no wonder Paul wrote to Timothy:

“Hold fast to the form of SOUND Words.” 1 Tim 1:13

Without in-depth study of the Bible every day, we have no hope of resisting Satan’s vast deceit in everything in life – including the translations of the Bible, itself.

We must remember that the authors of the Bible were **inspired**, but the translators were **hired!**

You Can't Find God in a Church

You cannot get to know someone well if you only spend time with that person in a crowd. It doesn't work with human beings, and it certainly doesn't work that way if you want to know God. There's nothing wrong with studying the Bible with others in small groups, where you can ask questions and have discussions, but you must be like the Bereans, and "study (on your own) to see if it is so."

Churches frequently lead you away from God, for many reasons. First, many of the churches now preach prosperity religion: give money to the church and God will richly bless you with material things. They even preach that Jesus was actually RICH, even though He said, "The Son of man has nowhere to lay His head." Luke 9:58

Other churches practice faith healing, teaching that a person can "make things happen" by just "believing." Apparently they believe that "man" can manipulate God into doing what "man" wants Him to do – just by the "power of positive thinking."

It is true that one must "believe" – but the Bible says, "Faith – without works – is dead." James 2:17 In other words, Faith – without the actions that correspond to that faith – is useless.

God PROMISES:

"If you follow My laws (including His Ten Health Laws), My commandments and My decrees, I WILL keep you FREE from EVERY disease." Deut 7:11-15

That is a Contract: God says, If you do this (follow My laws, commandments and decrees), I will do that (keep you free from every disease). Miraculous healing does NOT change the heart. Jesus healed Ten Lepers, but only one came back to thank Him.

Jesus Christ wants to change everything in our life – to make us STRONG witnesses for Him, Christians who exhibit the fruits of the spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, FAITH, Humility, and Self-Control.

How does Prayer work?

Prayer is your way of talking to God, and studying the Bible is God's way of talking to you. Those two methods – Bible study and prayer – are the ways to get ahold of God.

Prayer is not meant to “get” things from God; prayer is the way to get ahold of God, Himself.

But if you haven’t had enough trouble in your life yet, you may not have the motivation necessary to spend the time to get ahold of God. When things are going fine, we don’t feel the need for Christ to run our life. We think we can run it just fine on our own. But when we are hit with severe trouble, a life-threatening illness, financial ruin, a heart-breaking divorce, the loss of a job, or any other kind of serious trouble, there is a chance that we might turn to God and “seek Him with all our heart.”

“You will seek Me and you will find Me (but ONLY) when you search for Me with all your heart.” Jer 29:13

What does it mean to “Pray without ceasing”? 1 Thess 5:17

God calls us His children. The Bible tells us we must come to God “as a little child.” We must have the same relationship to God as a young child has with his or her mother. Whenever a small child has anything happen to him, good or bad, the first thing he does is run to his mother. He shares everything with his mother, and looks to her for guidance in every situation.

That is what it means to come to God as a little child. Indeed, we are His children. We must have the mindset of a child in relation to that child’s mother. We must turn to God for everything that is good, and be thankful for it, and everything that is bad, also being thankful for it because it will teach us something we need to learn, understanding that “ALL is of God.” Rom 11:36

Is there a formula – a blueprint - to finding God?

In a way, there IS, but first you must have the motivation, as mentioned above. You must be willing to “search for God with ALL your heart.”

Here is a way to start the process of getting ahold of God. Start by finding a private place to study God’s Word and pray. This is your quiet time alone with God. You will never find God by always being in a crowd. You only get to know someone well when you spend a lot of time alone with that person.

- 1) Every day, at the beginning of your day, get up at least 30 minutes earlier than usual. Read the daily page from the book, “My Utmost for His Highest” by Oswald Chambers, and read at least one chapter in the Bible.

Then pray – on your knees – representing humility and submission to God. You must never try to talk to God as an equal. We are in NO way, God’s equal.

- 2) Begin with the book of John. The writings of John are the most loving, and probably the easiest to read. Read the book of John through at least 3 times.
- 3) Then begin reading the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, all detailing the life of Christ on earth. Read these four gospels through at least 3 times.
- 4) Then move on to the rest of the New Testament, beginning with Acts, and through to Revelation.
- 5) It doesn’t matter whether you understand everything completely when you read. As you read the Bible through many more times, slowly God will open your mind to understanding. He will give you Wisdom.

We gain knowledge – facts - by the use of our 5 senses: sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell. But in order to take that knowledge – those facts – and reach the right conclusion, we need Wisdom. And Wisdom ONLY comes from God.

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God.” James 1:5

During the Exodus, when God took the Israelites through the wilderness on the way to the Promised Land of Canaan, God gave them manna to eat, symbolizing Jesus Christ, the “bread from heaven” who would nourish them spiritually as well.

The Israelites had to get up early every day to gather the manna for that day, before the sun came up and melted it. Also, they had to gather it every day – except on the Seventh-day Sabbath, during which time they were to put all their regular work aside. The manna would spoil if they tried to keep it for an extra day, except they were told to gather food for 2 days – on Friday morning, and the manna would not spoil.

The manna was physical food, for their physical body, but it also symbolized Jesus, the “bread from heaven” which is our spiritual food for our spiritual life. We too must keep our “spiritual” life healthy by “eating” of God’s Word every morning.

- 6) As you study the Bible, and begin understanding its truth, you must incorporate into your life ALL that you are now understanding. If you don’t, you will lose even the truth that you have previously known.

“Because they received NOT the love of the truth, that they might be saved, for this cause God shall send them a strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.” 2 Thess 11,12

7) Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” John 14:15

God’s Ten Commandments were NOT done away with at the cross. The Ordinances – the feasts and sacrifices – WERE “done away with at the cross,” because they looked forward to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. When He was crucified, the temple curtain was rent in two, signifying the end of those rituals.

The Old covenant was the Ten Commandments written on stone, a group of rules that could not be kept by the Israelites because they did not have God “in their heart.”

The New Covenant is the SAME Ten Commandments, but now in one’s heart, after that person has been changed by Jesus Christ into a “new creation in Christ.”

“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them.” Hebrews 10:16

8) **You have to WILL to believe!** Real faith is not easy. Everything in this world screams at you NOT to have faith. People want to SEE it before they Believe it. But God requires that we BELIEVE Him and His Word FIRST, and only THEN, will we SEE it. We want so much to believe “man” – family, friends, doctors, pastors, because we can see them and touch them. Believing in God – Someone we cannot see – is a huge challenge.

Christians talk a lot about having faith, believing God, but when it comes right down to it, they believe in “man” even though the Bible says:

“We ought to obey God rather than man.” Acts 5:29

That’s why it is imperative that we start every day with God, reading His word and praying. We must also pray at night. In fact, Daniel prayed three times day, that is how we stay close to God. And when we read His word and immerse ourselves in understanding the Word of God – the Bible - and how He dealt with His people throughout the history of the human race, we can gain confidence that God will certainly come through for us.

The ONE major theme of the whole Bible is “Deliverance.” God delivered the Israelites from the slavery of Egypt and brought them to the Promised Land. The rest of the Bible shows us how that story represents God delivering His people from sin.

And who are God’s people?

God created everyone who has ever lived on this earth. And He loves everyone of them dearly – the good and the bad. Is there anyone beyond the reach of Jesus Christ? No!

“Is anything too hard for the Lord? Gen 18:14

“God is the Savior of ALL mankind.” 1 Tim 4:10

“I watch over My Word to perform it.” Jer 1:12

Keeping the Seventh day – Saturday – Sabbath holy

Not only is the Seventh-day Sabbath given to us by God so we can have intimate fellowship with Him on that day – the day that HE commanded we keep holy – in honor of His creation of us, and everything in the world, but we are to set aside that 24-hour period – from sundown Friday night until sundown Saturday night, to spend with Him, on the day that HE made holy.

God knew we would not only have to spend time with Him in Bible study and prayer every day, but we would need a full 24 hours with Him, once a week, or we would be pulled away from our relationship with Him – distracted by the things of this world.

What are the obstacles to getting ahold of God?

What keeps you from knowing God?

- 1) If you still are holding on to sinful ways

“If I have iniquity (sin) in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.”

Psalm 66:18

- 2) If you are holding anger or grudges against someone else – or if someone else has “something against you.”

“If you bring your gift to the altar and remember your brother has something against you, leave your gift at the altar and go to your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Matthew 5:23,24

3) Love for our possessions, material wealth and fame

“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to get into the kingdom of God.” Matt 19:24

4) The cares of this world

The parable of the sower:

Jesus’ explanation of the Parable of the Sower highlights four different responses to the gospel.

The seed is “the word of the kingdom.” The hard ground represents someone who is hardened by sin; he hears but does not understand the Word, and Satan plucks the message away, keeping the heart dull and preventing the Word from making an impression.

The stony ground pictures a man who professes delight with the Word; however, his heart is not changed, and when trouble arises, his so-called faith quickly disappears.

The thorny ground depicts one who seems to receive the Word, but whose heart is full of riches, pleasures, and lusts; the things of this world take his time and attention away from the Word, and he ends up having no time for it.

The good ground portrays the one who hears, understands, and receives the Word—and then allows the Word to accomplish its result in his life. The man represented by the “good ground” is the only one of the four who is truly saved, because salvation’s proof is fruit (Matthew 3:7-8; 7:15-20).

5) Family and friends and the “experts”: Christians all say – and often believe – that they “Trust God,” but when it comes right down to it, they trust in man: doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists, pastors, Bible scholars, family and friends. How often I have heard, “I really want to follow God’s Health Plan to get well, by my family doesn’t want me to. That’s why I went to the doctor and had chemotherapy and radiation.”

“Trust in the Lord with ALL YOUR HEART and lean NOT on your OWN understanding. In all your ways acknowledge HIM, and HE will direct your paths.” Prov 3: 5,6

“We ought to obey GOD, rather than man.” Acts 5:29

- 6) Don't argue with God: Don't tell God – or anyone else - that your life is too difficult, or that you don't have the strength to do what He has placed in front of you. God knows a whole lot better than you do – what is right for you. He can give you ALL the strength you need to get through any circumstance that confronts you. But also recognize that in order to receive His strength for every hurdle in life, you must get to know God better than you know ANY human being on earth.

- 7) Not believing in God's omniscience and omnipotence: Even Christians believe that if “man” can't accomplish a certain goal, then neither can God. For example, every church and every pastor preaches fervently that God is UNABLE to save ALL those He has created. They admit that God “would like to” save them, but if a person is not interested in coming to God, then God is helpless to save that person. In other words, God cannot save a human being, unless that person “let's God do it.” That means that God is powerless to do anything that “man” does not let Him do.

Of course, that means that “man” controls God – which, of course, CANNOT be! But that is precisely what EVERY church teaches. Even though the churches “say” that God is Almighty, and that He can do anything, they actually believe the opposite. They believe that God CANNOT save a person UNLESS that person ALLOWS God to do it.

Therefore, their real message is that “man” controls God – that “man” is responsible for his OWN salvation – by making the “right choice.” Oh yes, they say, Jesus' death on the cross “provided a way” for salvation for all, but it is not effective unless “we do our part.” Even though the Bible says:

“God is the Savior of ALL mankind.” 1 Tim 4:10

“Behold, the Lamb of God who TAKES AWAY the sin of the WORLD.” John 1:29

“Nothing is impossible with God.” Matt 19:26

Jesus Christ is our Deliverer – our ONLY Deliverer

There is no other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we MUST be saved. Acts 4:12

Without Me - - - you can do NOTHING! John 15:5

There is only ONE way to God – through Jesus Christ – who IS God in human form:

“I am the way, the truth and the life. NO ONE comes to the Father – except through Me.” John 14:6

“By beholding (Jesus Christ) we become changed (into His image).”
2 Cor 3:18

Knowing Jesus is the ONLY way to God, because Jesus IS God in human form (Col 1:15).

Knowing Jesus is the ONLY way to know Truth – ALL truth, including political truth, health truth, and spiritual truth.

Knowing Jesus is the ONLY way to receive *eonian* life – having the life of Christ in you, so you can exhibit His character and disposition – something that must happen BEFORE we are ready for “eternal” life.