

## CLASS 3 || RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Getting baptized and joining a local church are crucial first steps in the Christian journey, but what truly matters the most is developing a personal connection or relationship with God, with Jesus our beloved savior.

Getting to know and understand the person you're entering a relationship with is crucial, and this applies to your relationship with God as well.

It's important to grasp the fundamental nature and character of God in order to cultivate a healthy connection with Him. Misinterpreting His character and nature often leads to distance from Him, which is why it's essential to know Him.

To know *about* God and to *know* God are two very different things. It's not enough to simply \_\_\_\_\_ about God; He desires a genuine \_\_\_\_\_ with each one of us.

To know God is to become more than \_\_\_\_\_. It involves knowing His \_\_\_\_\_, His character, and His love. Knowing Him means that you can recognize His \_\_\_\_\_ and feel His \_\_\_\_\_. When we know God, He doesn't feel distant or far away. Even when things get \_\_\_\_\_ in life, it means trusting the plan of God because He has proven to be trustworthy.

**Philippians 3:10.** And this, so that I may know Him [experientially, becoming more thoroughly acquainted with Him, understanding the remarkable wonders of His Person more completely] and [in that same way

### Answers

know / difficult / relationship / voice / acquaintances / presence / heart

experience] the power of His resurrection [which overflows and is active in believers], and [that I may share] the fellowship of His sufferings, by being continually conformed [inwardly into His likeness even] to His death [dying as He did]

## I. The What of a Relationship With God

Relationship with God is fellowship, love, trust. In this relationship, God is committed to you, and you, in turn, are \_\_\_\_\_ to God. The Westminster Shorter Catechism says, "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever." In other words, the goal and primary purpose of our lives is to have a \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

Another word for relationship with God is communion with God. The great thing is that God takes the first step in this relationship by sharing Himself through His Word, actions, and Spirit.

It is impossible to have a relationship with God without His \_\_\_\_\_, and the Holy Spirit makes His Word come alive within us. Our role is to obey the Holy Spirit's guidance, and the more we obey, the more He communicates with us, leading to a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship.

- a. **1 John 2:5-6.** But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: 6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

### Answers

deeper / relationship / committed / word

- b. **1 John 5:3.** We express our love for God by \_\_\_\_\_ His commandments; by \_\_\_\_\_ His word.

The Bible is where God connects with us and communicates with us, and it's also where we can respond to Him. This relationship is built on constant communication throughout the day.

For example...When you feel discouraged, you remind yourself of His promise in Isaiah 41:10, "Don't be discouraged, don't be dismayed, Fear not, I'll be with you wherever you go." You hold onto those words and express gratitude to the Lord, committing to take the next step of obedience. In that moment, you experience a deep connection and communion with God. This is how you walk with Him moment by moment in your life.

## **II. Communing With God**

God, the King of all kings is an unimaginably great friend who cares for us. He is not flesh, He is a spirit. We cannot touch Him, but we can feel Him. We cannot see Him, but we can experience Him. He is not an abstract, He is real.

We can \_\_\_\_\_ with God, and we can be \_\_\_\_\_ with God. To commune means to focus on, converse with, talk to, often with profound intensity, transparency, and honesty.

To develop a relationship with God, we must...

1. Know that God is a \_\_\_\_\_ but treat Him like a person. Consider this scenario: before speaking or taking action, take a moment to reflect and ask yourself, "Would I still proceed if God were physically present in front of

### **Answers**

commune / obeying / Spirit / keeping / intimate

me?" Similarly, when engaging in conversation with Him, speak as if He is attentively listening, because He is always there.

2. Take the Christian journey as if you're married to or in an intimate relationship with a person, not a theory or an unreachable entity. The foundation for marriage is love. And in your marriage \_\_\_\_\_ with God, \_\_\_\_\_ is the best way to show your love to Him.

**John 14:15.** If you [really] love Me, you will keep and obey My \_\_\_\_\_.

**I John 2:5.** But whoever habitually keeps His word and \_\_\_\_\_ His precepts [and treasures His message in its entirety], in him the \_\_\_\_\_ of God has truly been perfected [it is completed and has reached maturity]. By this we know [for certain] that we are in Him

### III. The How of a Relationship With God

A \_\_\_\_\_ with God happens most fundamentally by the Spirit through the Word.

Sharing quiet time (called communing) with God is very important if you want a solid relationship with Him, the God who is your Father.

Building a relationship with God requires effort on your part; it will not simply happen on its own. You need to take action and actively work towards strengthening your bond with Him.

1. **Be intentional** about building a relationship with God. Have a \_\_\_\_\_ to have deep \_\_\_\_\_ with Him.

#### Answers

desire / commandments / love / obedience / relationship / obeys / intimacy / relationship

Make this a priority. Priority will...

- a. help you guard against distraction.
- b. help you make time for God on a personal level.
- c. facilitate consistency.
- d. help you pray during everyday routine moments.
- e. Prevent anything else in life from becoming more important.

2. **Set aside time and place** to spend with the Lord. Remove all \_\_\_\_\_ or interruptions. For example, you may want to turn off your cell phone or not take it with you.

3. **Pray without ceasing / Talk to God everywhere.** Prayer is the link that \_\_\_\_\_ us with God. Have a mindset of prayer \_\_\_\_\_ the day. Talk to Him about \_\_\_\_\_ you choose. Surrender your thoughts and cares to the Lord. Pray for others in need. Try to empty your mind of distractions. Keep prayer as important, not as a routine or an \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ephesians 6:18.** Pray on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. Keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

4. **Worship God for who He is.** Worship God for He is the creator of all things.

- a. **Psalm 63:3-4.** Because your steadfast love is better than \_\_\_\_\_, my lips will praise you. So I will \_\_\_\_\_ you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.

#### **Answers**

obligation / connects / anything / bless / throughout / distractions / life

- b. **Psalm 9:2.** I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.
5. **Maintain a habit of praising God** for everything and in everything. Whenever you feel blessed, praise Him. Whenever things are not going well, praise Him. Remember, you may need to praise Him *in* some circumstances, not necessarily *for* them. Make it a habit to \_\_\_\_\_ express your praise.
- a. **1 Thessalonians 5:18.** In every thing give \_\_\_\_\_: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.
- b. **Hebrews 13:15.** Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of \_\_\_\_\_—the fruit of \_\_\_\_\_ that openly profess his name.
6. **Learn to listen to God.** Talk to Him but \_\_\_\_\_ more as He speaks. Be sure that you're not letting distractions get in the way of you \_\_\_\_\_ God's voice.
7. **Obey when God speaks.** It's not enough to just listen, we should act in \_\_\_\_\_ when God speaks.

**James 1:22.** Do not merely listen to the \_\_\_\_\_, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Obeying God has a lot to do with trusting Him. When we don't trust Him, we tend to do the opposite of what He says to do. When we do \_\_\_\_\_ Him, we tend to listen and obey when He speaks.

#### **Answers**

lips / trust / Word / obedience / praise / hearing / verbally / listen / thanks

8. **Learn His ways.** Learn how He typically communicates with you. It could be through dreams, visions, or the Spirit of God speaking to your spirit. This may manifest as an inner impression or hearing the voice of the Spirit within you. It could also be through His Word. Get to \_\_\_\_\_ His ways.
9. **Learn how to depend on God.** Pray and ask Him for guidance before making any \_\_\_\_\_, ask Him to be with you throughout your day, ask Him to give you wisdom in your day-to-day conversations. \_\_\_\_\_ on God is crucial for developing a strong relationship with Him.

**Psalm 37:5.** *Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do it.*

Building a relationship with God is a process. It doesn't happen instantly, and there will be moments when you feel close to Him and other times when you question His presence. However, this is all part of the process. Just like any relationship, your relationship with God is complex. With each phase of your life, you will discover more about Him and experience a deeper connection. As you grow closer to Him, He will unveil more of His true nature and impart wisdom about His character.

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### Answers

decision / know / depending