

**CONNECTING
WITH
GOD**

Pt 1: In a Personal Way

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Connecting with God - *“Getting to know God in a meaningful and life changing way.”*

Matthew 22:37-38

The essence of the Christian life can be summed up in one word relationship. God created us so He could love us and for us to love Him in return.

Hosea 6:6 (tlb) *I don't want your sacrifices - I want your love! I don't want your offerings - I want you to know me!*

1. Connecting with God as our Father.

One of the reasons why Jesus came to earth was to reveal who God is.

Mathew 6:9 *“This is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven...”*

Human fathers can be too demanding, inconsistent, self-centred and abusive. So Jesus qualified the term Father when He said, *“This is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven...”*

God is our heavenly Father as opposed to an earthly father.

2. Four Misunderstandings people have about God.

i. God is not REASONABLE.

The reason many people find it difficult to get close to God is because they think God is some kind of killjoy.

ii. God is not RELIABLE.

Human behaviour tells us when someone gets hurt they generally start the blame game.

iii. God is not CONCERNED.

If we think God is not concerned about us - then why bother knowing Him!

iv. God is not PLEASABLE.

Those who grew up with unpleasable parents, tend to think God is unpleasable too.

3. So what does the Bible say God is really like?

i. The Bible says that God is **CARING**.

Psalm 104:13 *“As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who honour Him...”*

God is compassionate, loving and gracious toward us. He cares about us. In fact, He loves us more than we will ever know.

1 Peter 5:7 *Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you!*

We have a heavenly Father that cares about all the details of our life.

Because of this, the Bible says in, **Matthew 6:31-32** *So don't worry saying, what shall we eat? ...or what shall we wear? ... your heavenly Father knows you need these things.*

Philippians 4:19 *And my God will give you everything you need because of His great riches in Christ Jesus.*

ii. The Bible says that God is **DEPENDABLE**.

James 1:17 *Every good and perfect gift... is from the Father ... who does not change like shifting shadows.*

The truth is earthy fathers can be unpredictable. Inconsistent fathers produce insecure kids.

God is a consistent Father. God is not moody. God never has a bad day. God's consistency does not depend on our consistency.

2 Timothy 2:13 *Even if we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot disown Himself.*

While everything around us might be changing, God always acts the same way towards us. He is always caring and He's always consistent.

One of the greatest causes of resentment and rebellion in kids is broken promises. God is the kind of Father who always keeps His promises.

Romans 11:29 (tlb) *God will never go back on His promises.*

Psalm 59:10 (tlb) *My God is changeless in His love for me.*

3. The Bible says God is **CLOSE** to us.

Acts 17:27 *God did this so people would ... reach out for Him and find Him, since He is not far from each of us.”*

i. **God** our heavenly Father, **is never too BUSY for us.**

Psalm 145:18 *The Lord is near to all who call on Him.*

ii. **God** our heavenly Father, **is sensitive to our HURTS.**

Psalm 34:18 *The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

4. The Bible says God is CAPABLE.

Luke 1:37 *For nothing is impossible with God.*

Our Heavenly Father can handle all our problems because He is competent.

Growing up, we think our dad is Superman and that he can do anything. But as we grow older, we realize that our earthly father has limitations.

But our heavenly Father really can do anything.

Ephesians 3:20 (tlb) *(God) is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask to even dream of – infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes!*

Conclusion

To connect with God in a personal way is possible and should be sort with the highest importance.

Our relationship with God is made possible because of the death of His Son, Jesus Christ.

To connect and to know God through Jesus should be our ultimate goal.

If you have not already, would you consider accepting His invitation today?

Philippians 3:7-8 *I once thought all these things were so very important, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. **8:** Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may have Christ.*