

Jesus – The way and the truth

The Lord Jesus Christ incarnated to earth from the spirit realm on 1 January 0000, if our calendar is correct. He was born into a carnal body approximately 2013 years ago and would therefore have been 2013 years old on 1 January 2013. Be that as it may, He came to live on this planet for a specific purpose, namely to do the will of our Heavenly Father God, the Creator of the universe and all things in it. He came to educate and uplift humanity in a selfless manner, by putting God's will above his own human desires. He did not live for himself, but instead for the benefit of humanity, by setting an example of how God expects us to live our lives in harmony with all of God's creation.

He persevered in his work even to the point of death. He was crucified by religious leaders who were blinded by self-righteousness. His very own people crucified Him, due to their lack of understanding and judgemental attitude towards anyone outside their circle of influence. Those Jewish leaders were God-fearing people, but unfortunately they were blind leaders who did not obey the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:34-40, Luke 10:25-37). They were a bunch of hypocrites who preached down to people and had no LOVE towards God's children. All people were created in God's image, be it Jew or Gentile, Black or White, Coloured or Indian, Japanese or Chinese, Mexican or American, African or European, Arab or Eskimo. The only way to know God is to serve God, and the only way to serve God is to serve humanity.

No form of religion or dogma or obeying a set of rules will bring us any closer to God. These things are all dead works, as they are done out of fear and not out of LOVE. We will never have any victory in life on earth or hereafter if we are ruled by fear. Fear is the opposite of faith and it is impossible to please God without faith. The first step to salvation, i.e. to being saved from eternal damnation, is to get to know the true character of God our Father. Jesus of Nazareth is the true way of getting to know God our Father in a personal way. God is not a God of wrath. God is a good Father and He loves each and every one of us. God is LOVE. Love, tolerance and forgiveness is the key to making this world a better place.

The Lord Jesus spoke the following profound and true words: 'But I tell you who hear me; LOVE your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you and pray for those who ill-treat you. If anyone hits you on one cheek, let him hit the other one too; if someone takes your coat, let him have your shirt as well. Give to everyone who asks you for something, and when someone takes what is yours, do not ask for it back. Do for others just what you want them to do for you. If you love only the people who love you, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners love those who love them! And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners do that! And if you lend only to those from whom you hope to get it back, why should you receive a blessing? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount! No! Love your enemies and do good to them; lend and expect nothing back. You will then have a great reward, and you will be children of the Most High God. For He is good to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Do not judge others, and God will not judge you; do not condemn others, and God will not condemn you; forgive others, and God will forgive you. Give to others, and God will give to you. Indeed, you will receive a full measure, a generous helping, poured into your hands – all that you can hold. The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you.' (Luke 6:27-38). 'Why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but pay no attention to the log in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, "Please brother, let me take that speck out of your eye," yet cannot even see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will be able to see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.' (Luke 6:41-42).

This seems like a tall order, but it is possible to all those who diligently seek God's will. The first step is to accept Jesus as Master. When we accept someone as Master or Teacher, we become his/her disciples and start practising what he/she teaches us. It can be likened to a master and teacher of martial arts. When the student has been fully trained, he becomes like the master and trains other students to become like him/her. To obtain true enlightenment, learn from the Great Master, Jesus the Anointed one of God. Get to know the real God by following the teachings of the Great Master. Please don't become religious, as religion will get you nowhere.

There is only one important commandment or guideline to have an intimate relationship with God and that is to love God and all of humanity selflessly and unconditionally (Matthew 22:34-40, Luke 10; 25-37, Mark 12:28-34 John 15:9-17, Luke 6:27-28).

This is not an impossible task to do. It is not an impossibility or a threat. It is a challenge and an opportunity. Don't give up without trying, and if you stumble and fall, get up and try again. After all, we are only human and to reach perfection takes time and lots of practice and repetition. Success is a choice and it is determined by commitment. No matter how many times we fall, we fail only when we give up. The key to success is to get up and try again and again. Be determined, and persevere. Every setback makes one stronger. Success is to obey God's Holy Spirit with joy and contentment. The first step is to accept Jesus as Lord and Master. The second step is sanctifying ourselves, i.e. to learn from Him and to become more and more like Him. This process takes time and lots of study. The best and quickest way to learn from the Great Master is to read the New Testament of the Holy Bible daily and routinely. A chapter a day is a good guideline for sincere seekers. Read it as any other book, starting at the beginning. The book of Psalms in the Old Testament is also very uplifting for people suffering from depression. The book of Proverbs (also in the Old Testament) which was written by King Solomon (one of the wisest men in history) is very helpful for those who lack understanding. As with all books, start reading at the beginning. The book of Proverbs has 31 chapters, one for each day of the month. A good practice is to start reading chapter 1 on the first day of a month. Depending on your level of understanding, it may be necessary to read the book of Proverbs continually for up to two years or more. A good practice is to find a quiet place to pray every day before you commence your daily activities. Wake up 30 minutes to one hour earlier than normal and use this time to start your day. I find that bowing down to God during prayer and meditation has better results than merely lying in bed with a prideful and casual attitude.

Ask God daily to pour out His Holy Spirit onto you and to break open the words that you are about to read so that you may focus on and understand what is being read.

If you have not accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as your Master, Teacher and Leader, and you would like to do so, why not take the opportunity and pray this simple prayer right now. No pressure though, God created us all with free will, and therefore we are masters of our own destiny. As we sow, we shall also reap.

The sinner's prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus I confess that I am a sinner and that I live far from You. I want to follow You and listen to You. I want to inherit eternal life and be welcomed in the Kingdom. Please forgive me for leading a sinful life. I am truly sorry and undertake not to make the same mistakes again. Please fill me with the LOVE, power and self-control of Your Holy Spirit. Help me to say 'no thank you' when temptation comes my way. Help me to grow closer and closer to You and to break with all wrong thinking, wrongdoing and inappropriate actions. Please deliver me from ignorance and foolishness. Please be my personal Lord, Master and Teacher. Thank you Lord Jesus for leading the way and for being a light on my path. Thank you for your amazing and unconditional love towards me. I love you Lord Jesus. AMEN!

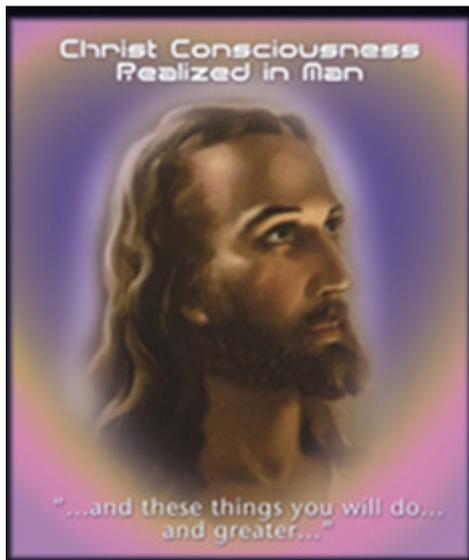
Congratulations if you have prayed this prayer sincerely. Welcome in God's family. You have now received eternal life (John 3:16, 36 and John 6:47). Don't be ashamed about your decision to follow Jesus. Tell as many people as possible, so that they also may turn around from the path of self-destruction and come to faith and follow the example of the Lord Jesus Christ. Read the New Testament daily and systematically to feed yourself with very important spiritual food. Failure to do so may result in stagnation and backsliding.

Be blessed, have an exciting, Spirit-filled life, and remember: "Jesus is Lord!" (1 Corinthians 12:3).

Believe in yourself, follow Jesus and trust God.

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John 14:12