

How to have a relationship with God

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God wants to have a personal relationship with you.

He created you, loves you, and wants to share Himself with you and have you share yourself with him.

These 4 tips will assist you in developing a powerful, personal relationship with the God who created the Universe and yet longs to have a relationship with you, each day of your life – and beyond.

#1 Believe in God

The only place to start when developing a relationship with anyone is to *believe in them*. THAT is the basis for every healthy and happy relationship. It is no different with God.

God is a bit more complicated than humans. He is a Triune Spirit, meaning He is One God in three persons: God, the Father, God, the Son (Jesus) and God, the Holy Spirit.

Each of the three contains the fullness of God, but they are represented in three different forms.

God, the Father, is a Spirit and He longs to communicate with man who is flesh. But man chose sin in the garden of Eden and thereby separated himself from a loving God. God sent Jesus into the world, to be that sacrificial offering to bridge the gap between God and man. Jesus lived, was crucified, and buried but rose to life after 3 days. He was seen by the disciples and after 40 days, went back up to heaven, where he now sits on the Throne next to God, His Father.

Now we have the privilege of being called His sons and daughters, because of Jesus' sacrificial offering on our behalf. We have the amazing opportunity to have a relationship with God – the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. All that is asked of us is that we believe.

Here's what the Bible says about believe:

1. Hebrews 11:6 – Without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to Him must BELIEVE that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.
2. John 3:16 – For God so loved the world that that he gave his only son, that whoever BELIEVES in him will never die but have eternal life.
3. Romans 10:9,10 – If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and BELIEVE in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with your

heart you BELIEVE and are justified and with your mouth you profess your faith and are saved.

4. John 1:12 – to all who receive him, to those who BELIEVE in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

This is much like the vows I took when I married my husband. I declared before all our family and friends my faith in my husband and I believed 100% in him and his love for me. (and it's lasted for 33 years so far!)

That's where we start in our relationship with God. We believe in him, confess our love to him and receive his love for us. Only it's not "til death do us part", because with God, our relationship is for eternity. It lasts beyond this Earth.

Therefore, that makes it even more important of a relationship because it determines our eternal position. We will love God and be loved by him for all eternity. Now that is a lasting relationship!

#2 Commit to Him

Much like the wedding vows, we make an intentional decision to commit ourselves to God. By this we mean, we purposely choose to commit our ways, thoughts, plans, desires, needs, dreams, all of it – to him

This is daily choice. And multiple times each day, we do this. Again, not unlike a marriage relationship when a spouse delays making a decision to check with the other.

Yet, we do this with not only our plans, but our thoughts, desires, dreams, etc. We decisively commit each of those to God and ask for his blessing and help in each one. We consciously present our thoughts, etc. to him and commit them to him. We do that in each area. We talk them over with him, just as we would in another relationship.

We ask for his input, advice, suggestions and direction and then listen for his answers.

The Bible says this:

1. Psalm 37:5 – Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this.
2. Proverbs 16:3 – Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.
3. Proverbs 3:6 – In all your ways submit to him and he will make your path straight
4. 1 Kings 8:61 – and may your hearts be fully committed to the Lord
5. Deuteronomy 6:5 – Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength.

6. Ephesians 4:22-32 – be made new in the attitude of your minds; and put on the new self, created to be like God.
7. 2 Corinthians 10:5 – We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

#3 Feed your Spirit

Every relationship that you want to grow, must be fed. It needs nourishment and constant attention for the seed to blossom and grow to maturity. And because God is a Spirit and our relationship with him is a spiritual one, our Spirit must be fed.

By feeding our Spirit, we are nurturing our relationship with God. We are learning about him, what he likes, how he helps, what he does, how he thinks, what he chooses, his ways, thoughts, and even His desires. All the while, he is nurturing us, feeding us and growing us – in the spirit.

We develop a deeper, richer understanding of our relationship with him and we desire even more.

These are important tools, practices and verses about how to feed your spirit:

1. Pray – this is how we communicate with God. (And we all know how important communication is in a relationship.) Communication is most effective when it is audible, out loud, not just in our head. Don't be afraid to talk out loud to God. Once you start, you'll not want to stop. It is vital.

Philippians 4:6 – Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer... present your requests to God.

2 Chronicles 7:14 – If my people... will humble themselves and pray... I will hear from heaven...

Ephesians 6:18 – Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests...

Matthew 6:7 – Ask and it will be given to you...

2. Read the Bible – this is the owner's manual for how to develop a relationship with God. If you don't read it, it is next to impossible to have a healthy relationship with God. There is nothing that will substitute for You reading the bible, not books about the Bible, but the actual Bible.

If you don't have one, get one. There are Apps that you can even get or you can still get one at a bookstore, or online. You need one.

There are many “versions”, meaning translations. These are designed to be easier to understand and you can select whatever one you wish.

If you have never read the Bible before and it’s all new these may be a good starting place for you – “The Passion Translation”, “The English Standard Version”, “The Message”.

When you read, start with small bites. Chew on it, mull it over, think about it, what does it mean, ask God.

Then try another bite. Do this every day and increase your portion size over time.

You are feeding your Spirit when you read. You are learning about the One who you are in relationship with. You are growing each day as is your understanding of Spiritual things. If you don’t understand what you’re reading, ask Him to help you, He is a Spirit and wants to reveal His Word to you. Just ask.

The Bible is also called “The Word” because it is quite literally “The Word of God”. The only way to have a healthy relationship is to share words. You have THE Word of God, His Word(s) when you have the Bible.

Bible verses about The Word:

Hebrews 4:12 – The word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to the dividing soul and spirit...

2 Timothy 3:16 – All Scripture is God-breathed and is profitable for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...

Psalms 119:9 – How can a person stay on the path of purity? By living according to the Word.

Psalms 119:11 – I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Psalms 119:105 – Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

3. Hang out with other Christians - Associating with others who are nurturing a relationship with God, will strengthen and encourage you in your relationship with God.

This doesn’t mean don’t associate with anyone else – that would be rude.

Other Christians though, will be a benefit to you and believe it or not, you will be a benefit them.

The Word is clear about this:

Hebrews 10:24, 25 – Let us consider how we may spur one another to love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing.

Matthew 18:20 – For where two or three gathers in my name, there am I with them.

Acts 2:42 – They devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and to fellowship...

Romans 10:17 – Faith comes from hearing the message...

There are several ways you should & can do this:

- find a church to become actively involved in
- attend a small group Bible study
- find clubs, groups, & interest topics centered around your growing faith and relationship
- use Godly social media extensions to follow and feed from

#4 Yield daily to God

Developing a strong and healthy relationship with God is a lifetime commitment.

There's not one who achieves perfection in that, this side of heaven. However, each of us seeking that relationship, will give ourselves completely to its development and make it a daily priority. That means, each day we willfully choose to yield to His ways.

And that's the rub. Very often our ways are easier and perhaps even more enjoyable.

Yet, we know, they are not what is feeding our Spirit. So, we learn to yield to Him. I wish I could promise a one time yielding and it's all done. No. It is a daily, hourly choosing – His will over my own. His plans, over mine. His Word and promises in the face of other words being spoken.

We choose to yield because we love God. We trust Him. We are in relationship with Him. His ways are higher than ours, better, wiser, and more fulfilling and lasting. We yield because He is strong and we are weak and in submitting to Him, we are telling Him just that.

Our days should start and end by yielding to God.

The word says this about it:

John 3:30 – He must become greater, I must become less

(This does not mean we cease being ourselves. This means that we become the fullness of what He has designed us to be.)

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to Him and he will direct your paths.

2 Chronicles 30:8 – Do not be stiff-necked... but yield yourselves to the Lord...

Romans 6:13 - ... Yield yourselves to God, as those alive from the dead...

Romans 6:16 – Don't you know that to whom you yield yourselves, that is whose servant you are

Galatians 2:20 – I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

Colossians 3:2 – Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things

Ephesians 5:18 – Be filled with the Spirit

Ephesians 4: 22, 23 – Put off your old self... and be made new...

Developing a relationship with God is the best thing you could ever do with your life. It will make you the best version of you because your life will be built according to the design of the Creator.

You loose absolutely nothing of eternal value when you develop this relationship. And you gain EVERYTHING.

It really is a no brainer.

You have taken a wise and rewarding step – to develop your relationship with God. He is waiting anxiously for you.

