

WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CHRIST

Having a relationship with Jesus Christ first means that cooperation with the Spirit has led to saving faith in Jesus and new birth by the Spirit for an individual. You must be born again.

Born again believers are children of God, joint heirs with Christ, and Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. Hebrews 2:11 Romans 8:16,17

One characteristic of born again believers is that they have the mind of Christ.

Have the mind of Christ: seeing from His perspective and His truth. Romans 12:2; 1 Cor. 2:16

HOW?

Cooperate with the Holy Spirit/ Be led to truth/ Jesus is the truth

Constantly communicate with Jesus about everything through the indwelling Spirit.

You learn to think His thoughts and see the truth. You learn to recognize evil, sin, and wickedness.

You learn to see what is good and acceptable and true.

Holy Spirit: Guide and Teacher Bible: Textbook

Testing ground for experiencing relationship with Jesus: Home, School, Work, Church

A second characteristic of born again believers is that of conviction.

Having Conviction:

The Holy Spirit convicts us as we cooperate. Convictions are for sin removal and for doing righteous acts undergirded by the fruits of the Spirit. How do we cooperate? Study the Bible and do righteous acts prompted and empowered by the Spirit.

Being convicted and growing in repentance is the practical way Jesus saves us from sin.

Being convicted to do a righteous thing or being convicted not to do a thing is the work of the Spirit.

God loves to save us from our sin.

Sin is the very opposite of love. Love consists of goodness, kindness, gentleness, patience, and unselfishness.

God is love. Sin is the very opposite of God.

You can experience God's kind of love as you develop in your fellowship with Him.

Other people have needs just as you have needs. You being God's tool to help other people will give you great purpose and joy. The way for you to experience God and His love is by expressing His love to other people by your words and actions.

A relationship with Jesus means that you learn to agree with Jesus and obey His truths. It means you allow the Holy Spirit of Christ to produce His fruits in you; love, joy, peace, kindness, gentleness, self control, patience, and goodness.

You allow the Holy Spirit to exercise within you the gifts that He has given you.

You have the gift of helping and the Spirit keeps you looking for ways of helping people.

So having a relationship with Jesus means you have the mind of Christ, you agree with Him, you are learning to obey Him, and learning to serve Him with love toward other people.

John 12:26 Jesus said. "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

To have a relationship with Jesus is a journey of partnership with Him and with other believers. Jesus is your best friend. We have failures along the journey as well as success. Jesus picks us up from our failure. Jesus comforts, corrects, disciplines, and loves us through our journey. We pray to our Heavenly Father, but we pray in the name of Jesus. It is our relationship with Christ that gives us right standing with our Heavenly Father. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Jesus.

GOD PROMISES TO COMPLETE HIS WORK IN THE BORN AGAIN BELIEVER

Philippians 1:6 I am confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

For those who have a new birth in Jesus and relationship with Him, God will complete that good work in you by the time that Jesus returns to earth to set up His Kingdom.

Who has the new birth:

The humble: Those who recognize personal sin and personal need of Jesus.

The repentant: Those who turn to God to live by His power and direction.

The believer: Those who cooperated with the Spirit and believe that Jesus died so that their sin can be removed. And those who believe that Jesus arose so that He can live in their heart and change them to be like Him.

Throughout life, the believer in Jesus learns to do righteous acts initiated and led by the Spirit. This is the righteousness of Christ in the believer. The moment when you trusted Jesus, God credited you with these righteous acts which you would allow Christ to do in you.

At physical death, the believer is forever separated from his nature to sin. The believer enters the presence of Jesus totally sinless and totally righteous. Nothing is retained in the new creation except what was done through the righteous work of Jesus Christ. Therefore, the believer should diligently strive to engage in his relationship with Jesus Christ.

Remember, having a relationship with Jesus means you have the mind of Christ, you agree with Him, you are learning to obey Him, and you learn to serve Him with love.

Every prayer you pray in the name of Jesus goes with you to heaven. Every work you do for Jesus in His name goes with you to heaven. When you pray, the Holy Spirit makes your prayer acceptable to God even if you don't word your prayer very well. Pray from your heart with humbleness and desiring the goodness of God.

Colossians 2:10 You are complete in Him who has all power and authority.

From God's eternal perspective He sees your past, your present, and your future. God already sees you complete in Christ and you sitting with Christ in heaven. God sees already what He will do in you as you follow Him and obey Him.

EVERY BORN AGAIN BELIEVER SHOULD BE A MINISTER OF EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

Ministers need to know how Jesus gets a person out from under God's wrath against sin, out from under the penalty of sin, and out from under the power of daily sin.

Ministers need to understand the work of Christ through His death, burial, and resurrection.

Christ was made flesh through virgin birth.

Christ was born without a sin nature.

Christ is God in the flesh.

Jesus is God and is therefore perfect as God is perfect.

Jesus was tested even by Satan, yet remains sinless even unto physical death.

Jesus was unjustly condemned in the courts of man and is nailed to a cross to die.

Jesus is God, yet all sin is thrust upon His human body crushing Him under its weight.

Jesus gave Himself to die a physical death in order to condemn sin to its ultimate destruction.

God the Father is well pleased with the sacrifice His Son made to defeat sin, death, and Satan.

God the Father loves the world so much that He was pleased for His Son to go to the cross for the purpose of removing sin, death, and all wickedness from creation. Colossians 1:19,20

The unjust physical death of sinless Jesus and His bodily resurrection propelled Him to the status of Last Adam. As victorious Last Adam, Jesus, has the right to remove all sin and death from creation. All judgment is given to the Son of God by God the Father. John 5:22,23

Jesus is the Way that the believer's sin is removed. There is a practical process for sin removal. Remember, God already sees your sin removal complete. He promises to complete it.

As we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 This is the present part of the process.

Separation from our physical body removes all sin including our nature to sin. Eph. 1:3-14

Jesus is doing much more than a process of sin removal in the believer.

Jesus is in the process of doing righteous actions within the believer through the power of the Spirit. 1 Corinthians 1:30; 3:9 Romans 10:3 Philippians 3:9

When we understand our own relationship with Jesus Christ, we can do better as we engage in evangelism and discipling of others.

Sanctification is a work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the cooperating believer. The process which brings us new birth is the same process which we live by in our relationship with Jesus Christ. This process begins with conviction by the Holy Spirit, our cooperation with conviction, repentance toward God in personal alarm at sin, belief in Jesus' saving power through His death and resurrection, and obedience to the gospel. Conviction of sin, judgment, and the need for right standing with God leads the way in the work of justification and sanctification by the Spirit. Conviction of doing works of righteousness is added once new birth has come. Obedience to the gospel begins with calling upon Jesus to save and take control of one's life. After new birth, obedience transitions to following the commands of Jesus as led by the Holy Spirit inspired by the Scriptures of the Bible.

Continuation in sanctification requires the convicting work of the Holy Spirit concerning works of righteousness as well as conviction over sin. The believer's cooperation with conviction leads to repentance throughout life in that change toward likeness to Jesus Christ occurs.

Sanctification begins at new birth and continues unto physical death. Throughout life the believer is led to do works of righteousness. The Holy Spirit initiates this work and empowers it. Water baptism is a work of righteousness commanded in Scripture and is a testimony to the changed life of the believer. Every work of righteousness led by the Spirit is a treasure which goes with the believer to heaven. Every prayer we pray and every act led by the Spirit is the righteousness of Christ produced in us.

Revelation 19:8

1 Thessalonians 5:11-23

God sanctifies the cooperating believer.