

separated us from God and that's why we don't just naturally have a relationship with God. God knew we would sin and provided a way to deal with our sin and rebellion in our life. In God's plan Jesus became the sacrifice, the offering for our sin.

Jesus' death on the cross paid for your sin and failure - it was put upon Him. Your sinful debt was paid in full. You can be forgiven and totally accepted by God. "...and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross..." (1 Peter 2:24) "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses (sins)..." (Ephesians 1:7) "Being justified (made right with God) by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:1)

Jesus' death paid for your punishment, in order that you may be free from the fear of judgment and know the love God has for you. "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the punishment for our sins. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment..." (1 John 4:10,18)

Jesus' resurrection from the dead can give you power to experience a new life and to change. Only Jesus arose from the dead, ascended into heaven, thus proving He is the way to eternal life with God. "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who in dwells you." (Romans 8:11) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes (trusts) in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

There is no other way, but Jesus!

God has provided no other way for you to come to Him and understand His plan, except through Jesus. Will you come to God, God's way? Will you receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior? Here are a few steps to follow and a prayer to help you come to know God through Jesus Christ.

Admit that you are a rebellious sinner in need of God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ's atoning work on the cross. (Romans 3:23)

Repent: turn from your sin and rebellious attitude. (Acts 3:19)

Believe - trust Christ to be your Lord & Savior. Believe what God has said about His plans and purpose for your life. (Act. 16:31, Matt. 4:4)

Receive God's free gift of His Son through faith. (Eph. 2:8, 9, John 1:12)

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, I need you. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my heart and life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of all my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be.

WHY JESUS?

KNOW THE TRUTH



"...AND THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE."

Pastor Lynn Kern

Is Your Belief In God, Real?

Recently, I visited with a man who described his belief in God as his "higher power." Yet, he seemed confused and discouraged about God and how God operates. He was obviously concerned about his present situation and wondered if God cared. He thought God may be testing him, though he seemed to have no personal understanding of God to base it on. He said he prayed to God, but God didn't seem to be answering him or changing his situation.

You could see that he had a sincere desire to believe in God, but his concept of God was confused and lacking reality. His ideas about God came from various sources: the Bible, Alcoholics Anonymous, his personal philosophy of life and life experiences. Yet, he had no definite relationship with God based upon the truth of who God is and what His plan is about.

As I listened to him and observed his frustration, I felt such a desire for God to become real to him. I wanted him to know God and experience a definite direction and purpose as part of God's plan for his life.

Will You Believe In God, God's Way?

In the fourth chapter of the book of Genesis, we read the story of Cain and Able. God had required a sacrifice offering to atone for sin. That offering was to be a blood sacrifice, though it is not mentioned in the passage. Able was a rancher and brought the best of his herd. Cain was a farmer and brought the best of his vegetables. Cain knew that God had required a blood sacrifice, but chose to offer his own prize vegetables instead. Cain had animals available to him for sacrifice, but chose instead to offer a sacrifice of his own

making. He chose to come to God on his own terms rather than God's. His sacrifice was rejected.

Because God is God, the Creator of mankind and the Architect of our lives, He has the right to determine the way by which we come to know Him and please Him. Thus, we cannot expect to truly know God and His plan for our life if we choose some other way or invent our own. Are you willing to come to God, God's way?

"I am the way the truth and the life..."

Prior to talking with this man, I had preached a sermon on the importance of Jesus. The key verse was Acts 4:12: "*And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.*" That name was Jesus. Who Jesus is and what He did is the sum total of God's plan and purpose for us. Later, when I was involved in this conversation with this man, it dawned on me how important this truth is to believing in and trusting God. I realized that this man was trying to believe in God without an understanding of God through Jesus Christ.

God has provided no other way. Without trusting in Who Jesus is and what He did, there can be no reality of God's salvation. Without Jesus, there is no personal relationship with God. Without Jesus, there is no way to understand God and His plan. Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man can come to the Father, but through Me.*" (John 14:6) Only Jesus makes God and His plan sensible and real. That is why this man's efforts to believe failed to produce a real and understandable

relationship with God.

Jesus said, "I am the door."

Do you find yourself in the same spiritual condition as this man? You believe in God; yet, God seems so distant and uninvolved in your life. You're not sure how God really works or whether He cares about you. You may find your belief in God filled with confusion and misconceptions. You may be like Cain, trying to offer God your own self-made beliefs which fail to bring you to a valid relationship with God. If this is you, then you need to find the "door" that will lead you into a real and vital relationship with God. That "door" is Jesus. "*I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved...*"

Why Jesus? Because of who He is.

Jesus is the very Son of God. The God-man. The only fully qualified representative of God. Jesus was the very expression of God, His nature and character, in human flesh. He came to earth to show God's love and plan for His people, both in speaking God's word and in fulfilling it through His life. "*In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father...*" (John 1:1,14)

Why Jesus? Because of what He did.

God's plan and purpose cannot be understood without Jesus. God loves us and has a great plan for our lives. (John 10:10) However, that plan has been disrupted because of our sin - our rebellious attitude toward God and His ways. Sin has