

A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Many people refuse to believe that a person could have a personal relationship with God or his Son. I believe the Bible, God's Word, to be true. And in His Word, I've read how much I mean to God and how much He wants to mean to me. My belief is a choice and one that I'm more than satisfied with. It was in the Bible that I read that because I was a sinner without a Savior, I was headed to a lost eternity. I've now met that Savior, and I know where I'm headed—eternity with Jesus. It's an assuring thought.

John 3:16,17 reads, *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it* (NLT).

People often argue about the Bible out of fear. They have no peace about their eternity, and that terrifies them. I was terrified too, until I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. Peace comes as you open your heart and ask Jesus to come in and reside. Changes happen within you—old things fall away—you become a new creature in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17) and as your daily relationship through prayer deepens, those changes are more evident.

God is faithful to his people. He hears their cries. Psalm 34:15, 17, 18 reads: *The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their cry. The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit* (NKJV).

Oftentimes it becomes difficult to share your personal walk with others, especially family. We can easily be misunderstood. Anger and resentment rears its ugly head. The very person you are trying to share the loving nature of God with—to give them hope—to bring them out of bondages into freedom, can turn against you. You may be accused of being disrespectful, overbearing and insensitive. I must then remember to ask God to give me patience and not to say things that would antagonize them or to drive them further from the truth—God's truth (John 8:32, 36). It is at these times that I have to remind myself that God loves the person more than I do. It is God who brings about the heart change. I often have to tell myself, *Katie, you are not the one who saves! Be still and trust God with their heart and continue to pray for them.*

One day you may come to the realization that you are walking around with a gigantic void within your hearts and nothing—friend, work, family, “things” won't fill that vast hole—you are left empty—perhaps it is time to have a little talk with Jesus. To ask him to come into your heart! Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. Simply tell God that you need to be saved from your sins and that you believe his Son will save you. Ask Him to be the Lord of your life.

PRAYER: *Dear Jesus, I confess to you that I am a sinner and I ask you to forgive my sins and come into my heart now as my Savior. Be the Lord of my life. I give my life to you this moment. I welcome you into my life and into my heart. Teach me how to love myself and to love others. I thank you for your mercy, your grace and your forgiveness. Thank you for receiving me as your child. Help me change my life Lord, and help me to live for you. Thank you that you have filled that void. I am now secure in my salvation as your child. I trust in your love. Thank you that I do not have to be afraid when I die — my eternity is with you in heaven. In Jesus' name I pray.*