

How to Begin a Relationship with God

To begin a personal relationship with God, please consider these four fundamental truths from the Bible:

- (1) God loves you and wants you to enjoy a forever relationship with Him. (John 3:16)
- (2) Failure to live up to God's standard of holy perfection (sin) has resulted in separation from God that will last forever for everyone who does not believe. (Romans 3:23, 6:23)
- (3) To solve the problem of sin that separates you from God, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty for your sin by dying on the cross. (1 Peter 3:18)
- (4) Everyone who makes a personal decision to trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior from sin receives forgiveness from sin and enters God's forever family. (John 1:12)

If you want to make the decision today to begin a relationship with God, you can express your faith in Christ by personally praying the following:

“Father, thank You for loving me and wanting a relationship with me. I admit that I have sinned and that I need a Savior. I believe that Your Son, Jesus, died on the cross to pay for my sins. I trust Jesus alone as my Savior. Thank You for making me part of your family.”

If you made a decision today to trust in Jesus as your Savior, let us know by indicating on the communication card OR by telling a pastor. We want the opportunity to rejoice with you and help you take your first steps in this new relationship.



[05.17.2009] *Can I believe when I still have doubts?*
Matthew 14:22-33

Leap of Doubt = allowing the _____ of the Christian faith to drive _____ in Jesus and _____ in something/someone else.

The Leap of Doubt flows from two _____:

(1)

(2)

The Leap of Doubt is really a Leap of _____:

(1)

(2)

_____ **my faith:**

(1)

(2)

Personal Study

(1) Read Matthew 14:22-33. Write down all the words of Jesus in these verses. What do they teach us about Jesus' approach to doubt?

(2) Read Matthew 14:22-33. Write down all the words of the disciples in these verses. In what ways can you relate to the response of the disciples to this amazing miracle? _____

(3) Read John 20:1-18. In this narrative of the resurrection, how can you explain the different responses of Mary, John, and Peter to the empty tomb? _____

(4) Read John 20:1-18. What finally convinced Mary that Jesus was really alive and that His body had not been stolen? _____

(5) Read Mark 9:14-32. Why does Jesus rebuke the disciples for not being able to cast the evil spirit out of the young boy? _____

(6) Read Mark 9:24. What does it mean to believe, yet still struggle with unbelief? _____

Personal Application

(1) What doubts have haunted you the most on your journey of faith?

(2) What life-circumstances have you encountered that have caused fear (like the storm for Peter) and led you to doubt? _____

(3) Do you find it easy to believe or hard to believe? Explain your answer: _____

(4) If you did not trust in Jesus, what person or object would you most be tempted to put your confidence in? _____

(5) What has helped you process your doubts most openly and honestly? What has helped you overcome your doubts? _____

(6) What would you say to someone else who is allowing their doubts to keep them from following Christ? _____

(7) What do you think God wants you to learn from this message and this study? _____
