

## Dealing With Problems

Nobody likes problems. So why in the world would the Bible tell us to "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds" (James 1:2)?

Because (James goes on), "you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything" (James 1:3-4). God is keenly interested in our character, and will use hard times to mold that character.

When problems arise, first seek God! Tell Him that you trust Him, and ask Him not only to solve your problem, but to help you grow as a result. When you turn to the LORD, you are not burdening or bothering Him; you are showing Him that you trust Him and believe that He is able to help you. Jesus tells us in Matthew 11:28, "Come to Me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." The Bible also says, "The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him" (2 Chronicles 16:9).

Finally, don't be stressed out, but pray! The Apostle Paul said, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

In our finite and limited view, we often fail to see what good can come from a bad situation. But God, who is eternal, can see the future and how it all works out. That's why the Bible urges us to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

### Verses

"Trust Me in your times of trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give Me glory" (Psalm 50:15).

"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you."  
(1 Peter 5:7)

## Discipleship

Many of today's college students take an internship with a company in their desired field as a part of their required curriculum. As an intern, a student is saying to his employer, "I want you to teach me what you have successfully learned to do." This is similar to being a disciple of Jesus, except that the duration is not for a few months or a year, but for life. Jesus said, "Take My yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:29). He also said, "I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you" (John 13:15). Jesus further affirmed the importance of discipleship when He told His followers, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19, 20).

God's design is for new Christians to learn from mature Christians how to follow Jesus. The apostle Paul told young believers, "Imitate me, just as I imitate Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1), and in 2 Timothy 1:13-14 he encouraged us to "Hold on to the pattern of right teaching you learned from me. And remember to live in the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus." In the local church, you need to find mature believers who not only teach you the Word of God, but demonstrate it with their lives. The Bible itself is a mentor and teacher, but every young believer needs someone to help him understand and apply the word to his life -much like children do not learn just by reading a textbook, but by having a teacher explain the concepts.

As you follow Jesus and learn from Him through other believers and His word, you will grow in your faith, be strengthened in your relationship with God, and fully become the person He wants you to be. You will advance His kingdom and bring glory to His name.

### Verses

"You are truly my disciples if you keep obeying my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31, 32).

"A student is not greater than the teacher. A servant is not greater than the master." (Matthew 10:24).

"Hold on to the pattern of right teaching you learned from me. And remember to live in the faith and love that you have in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 1:13).

## Does God really forgive my sins?

Everyone has sinned—done things wrong—from “big” things like murder to “small” things like envy or gossip. Because we have all disobeyed God in one way or another, we are all deserving of the judgment for this, which is death. Jesus Christ came to take our judgment upon Himself, and though He was innocent, He willingly died on the cross for us. When He did this, He took all your sin upon Himself.

The Bible says that Jesus “was wounded for our transgressions...and by His stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5). When you put your trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you are set free from all judgment for your sins and from the punishment of death. Everything you have done wrong in the past is forgotten by God and He makes you into a new person: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)

### Verses

“As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us” (Psalm 103:12).

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

## Homosexuality

The first two human beings God made were Adam and Eve—a male and a female. As a man and a woman, God made them to enjoy an exclusive relationship with each other, different from all other relationships they would have. As a man and a woman committed to one another for life in a covenant before God (which we call marriage), they would become as one person.

The Bible says, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). This union happens in sex. From this special relationship, families would be formed and nurtured, societies would be established, and God's love for His people would be demonstrated by example of this committed and complementary relationship.

Homosexuality—the sexual union between two people of the same sex—goes against all of God's plan for the unique relationship He set up for the man and the woman in the beginning. Instead of fostering love and security in a covenant (that is, committed forever) relationship and family, it promotes confusion, disorder, and sickness—while also failing to bring forth life. Homosexuality is not God's intended way for humans, and therefore He commands against it in the Bible. "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination" (Leviticus 18:22). Many may say that they were born homosexual, but through Jesus Christ, every person can be born again!

This is what salvation is, through faith in Jesus Christ: you die to your old self, sins, and desires, and you are born again in Jesus Christ, who was perfect and lived to please God. If this is what you want, confess and renounce (that is, leave) your sins and your old way of homosexuality and ask God to free you from it. Nothing is too big for God; He can save you from anything.

### Verses

"And Jesus said to her, 'Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more'" (John 8:11).

"Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave to sin...Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed'" (John 8:34,36).

"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God'" (John 3:3).

## Do Heaven and Hell Exist?

Is hell real? Interestingly, studies show that 90% of the world believes in heaven while less than 50% believe in hell. Jesus made numerous references to the existence of both heaven and hell. The Bible describes hell as "eternal fire" (Matthew 25:41), "unquenchable fire" (Matthew 3:12), "shame and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:2) to name just a few. The Bible describes heaven as God's throne (Isaiah 66:1, Acts 7:48-49, Matthew 5:34-35). Jesus Himself also tells us that there are many rooms in God's house and that He Has gone before us to prepare a place for us. We have the assurance of His word that he will one day come back to earth and take us to where He is in heaven (John 14:1-4).

Jesus also taught that the righteous would inherit eternal life and the unrighteous would receive eternal death. "And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life" (Matthew 25:46). Every person falls into one of two categories: the righteous and the unrighteous-those who inherit eternal life and those who receive eternal punishment. What makes a person righteous? The Bible makes it clear that righteousness is only achieved through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6). If you want to be sure of spending your eternal life with God-and enjoying an abundant life now-you can call out to God, and ask Him to forgive your sins and save you through Jesus Christ, His Son.. God does not want anyone to perish, and so He has given you a means of salvation: "For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

### Verses

"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32, 33).

"When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer you and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from'" (Luke 13:25).

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

## What about the Hypocrites in the Church?

The hypocrisy (saying one thing and doing another) of some Christians has kept many back from following Jesus and from being part of a local church. In all honesty, it is true that hypocrites do exist within the Church (that is, the larger group of those who call themselves Christians), for various reasons: Some are new Christians and don't understand everything yet; some have received bad teaching; some simply make mistakes; and others, unfortunately, do not really have the relationship with God they claim to: "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!'"

Hypocrites have been around since the time of Jesus. After confronting the Pharisees (religious leaders of their day) a number of times, He told His disciples, "You shall not be like the hypocrites" (Matthew 6:5). He also taught them how to recognize a true Christian: He said, "Therefore by their fruits you will know them" (Matthew 7:20) --that is, by their actions and that which their life produces.

Jesus does not call perfect people to follow Him. On the contrary, His message is for those who see the depth of their sin and their need for forgiveness.

Though some may misrepresent God with their words or actions, God's character and power is not changed. God is a good God who calls people to live a life of love and obedience to Him, one that will draw people to Him and bring Him honor. You can live such a life by having a real relationship with God in which you honestly admit your faults to God and to others, and by loving Him with your whole heart.

### Verses

"And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30).

"For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother" (Mark 3:35).

"Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward" (Matthew 6:2).

## Homosexuality

The first two human beings God made were Adam and Eve—a male and a female. As a man and a woman, God made them to enjoy an exclusive relationship with each other, different from all other relationships they would have. As a man and a woman committed to one another for life in a covenant before God (which we call marriage), they would become as one person.

The Bible says, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). This union happens in sex. From this special relationship, families would be formed and nurtured, societies would be established, and God's love for His people would be demonstrated by example of this committed and complementary relationship.

Homosexuality—the sexual union between two people of the same sex—goes against all of God's plan for the unique relationship He set up for the man and the woman in the beginning. Instead of fostering love and security in a covenant (that is, committed forever) relationship and family, it promotes confusion, disorder, and sickness—while also failing to bring forth life. Homosexuality is not God's intended way for humans, and therefore He commands against it in the Bible. "You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination" (Leviticus 18:22). Many may say that they were born homosexual, but through Jesus Christ, every person can be born again!

This is what salvation is, through faith in Jesus Christ: you die to your old self, sins, and desires, and you are born again in Jesus Christ, who was perfect and lived to please God. If this is what you want, confess and renounce (that is, leave) your sins and your old way of homosexuality and ask God to free you from it. Nothing is too big for God; He can save you from anything.

### Verses

"And Jesus said to her, 'Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more'" (John 8:11).

"Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave to sin...Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed'" (John 8:34,36).

"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God'" (John 3:3).

## Marriage

When a man and woman get married, they stand before a room of witnesses and proclaim their commitment to a lifetime of love. Though the details of the ceremony differ from culture to culture, the concept of marriage is the same. There is a desire to know and be known by another human being in total intimacy, and to procreate and raise the next generation. This building of family is God-ordained from the beginning of creation as a lifetime union between a man and a woman (Genesis 2:18, 24). God's plan is designed to enable a man and woman to grow together in a mutually satisfying relationship, and then to reach out to others with the love of Christ.

God lays out a blueprint for marriage in the Bible. It makes sense that the Designer of marriage has the best plan for building it. His clear instructions are:

Marriage should be between a man and a woman. (Gen 2:18) Eve, a woman, was the "helper" God provided who was suitable (Gen 2:24). Any other kind of union, God considers "unnatural" and a sin (Romans 1:26-27).

Marriage should be a lifetime union. God is grieved by divorce and the destruction of lives that result (Mark 10:3-12).

Marriage should be mutually beneficial, where both partners look out for the interests of the other in a bond of love (Ephesians 5:33; Philippians 2:3; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

Marriage should be a monogamous and faithful relationship. God hates adultery so much that it is forbidden in the Ten Commandments and warns over and over that it leads to destruction (Exodus 20:14; Proverbs 6:32).

Why is marriage so important to God? Like all things God creates, marriage has a purpose and a provision. The obvious purpose is to establish a safe and healthy environment for intimacy and for the raising of children. God doesn't want us to be lonely, and he wants us to be fruitful in a lasting way (Gen.2:18; Gen.1 :27-28). A deeper, more spiritual purpose is to reflect the image of God as a unit (Gen. 1:27) and to mirror the beautiful relationship between Jesus and His Bride, The Church. (Ephesians 3:31).

The Bible says, "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for

their work" (Ecclesiastes 4:9). In a partnership in which the two are working for the same goal-loving God, loving people, and building God's kingdom-their efforts are multiplied in their unity. You can walk in the power and purpose of a godly marriage as you pattern your relationship after the Bible, pray together regularly, and serve together in a local church. God will bless the marriage modeled after His word, and together, the husband and wife will produce much for the kingdom of God!

### **Verses**

"Haven't you read the Scriptures?" Jesus replied. "They record that from the beginning 'God made them male and female.' And He said, 'This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.' Since they are no longer two but one, let no one separate them, for God has joined them together" (Matthew 19:4-6).

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Site Map](#)  
© 2005-10 Global Media Outreach. All Rights Reserved.

## Names of God

Have you ever had someone call you by the wrong name? Even though it may seem like a minor mistake, it bothers us, because great meaning and significance—and even power—is held in a name. This is true, and even more so with the name of God.

In the same way that you give your name when you introduce yourself to someone, so God has told us His name. He told Moses that His name is YHWH, which means in Hebrew "I AM WHO I AM" and is written in the Bible as "LORD." Because God's given name reveals who He is, it holds great power—even the power to save. The Bible says, "Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

God's name is also a source of help. "The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are set on high" (Proverbs 18:10). Here are some of the names of God found in the Bible. You can call upon His name in praise, in need, and in gratitude, and He will answer:

Jehovah (YHWH) Jireh-The LORD My Provider

Jehovah (YHWH) Rapha-The LORD My Healer

Jehovah (YHWH) Nissi-The LORD My Banner

Jehovah (YHWH) Rohi-The LORD My Shepherd

Jehovah (YHWH) Tsidkenu-The LORD My Righteousness

Jehovah (YHWH) Shalom-The LORD My Peace

Jehovah (YHWH) Shammah-The LORD Who Is Present

Jesus-The LORD Saves

### **Verses**

"I am the LORD, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another" (Isaiah 42:8).

"I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him" (Psalm 91:14, 15).

"And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM... This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations'" (Exodus 3:14, 15).

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Site Map](#)  
© 2005-10 Global Media Outreach. All Rights Reserved.

## Other Religions.Don't They All Point to God?

Many religions claim to offer an explanation of the world, and show the way to God. However, without divine intervention and revelation, finite man's attempts to know and describe the infinite will always fall short. Followers of Jesus believe that the One True God, the Creator of everything, has revealed Himself in the Bible, and then in person through Jesus Christ.

So while other religions offer a code or set of rules to live by, they fail to deal with the problem of man's sin, nor provide the power to live the kind of life we want to live, much less a life that measures up to God's standards.

Jesus Christ came not as just another religious leader, but as God in the flesh, and therefore was able to clearly explain God. Not only that, He lived a perfect life, free from any sin, and when the time came for a spotless sacrifice to be offered for the sins of mankind, He alone was qualified.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me." This would be a statement of the highest arrogance if not spoken by the Son of God Himself. Before His crucifixion, Jesus prayed, "If there is any other way, let this cup pass from me." Would the Father have subjected His Son to the torture and humiliation of the cross, just to provide one more way among many to reach Him?

No man-made religion offers the complete payment for sin and gives full access to God. Because Jesus is God's chosen means of salvation, believing in Him is the only way to be truly saved—made right with God, with the assurance of eternal life in heaven.

### Verses

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

"There is salvation in no one else! There is no other name in all of heaven for people to call on to save them." (Acts 4:12).

"For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and people. He is the man Christ Jesus. He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone" (1 Timothy 2:5, 6).

## Prayer

In its simplest form, prayer is just talking to God. But sometimes we just don't know what to say. Don't feel awkward if you don't know how to pray-even Jesus' own disciples asked for help, "Lord, teach us how to pray" (Luke 11:1). Many Christians do not devote consistent time to prayer because they don't know how or because they do not realize the power of their prayer. Just like a child must learn to walk, so a Christian must learn to pray-and just as a person will not do much in his life without first walking, so the Christian will not accomplish much without praying.

In response to His disciples' request, Jesus taught them a model prayer that holds six keys to powerful prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). The first and most important thing is to praise God-acknowledging who God is and thanking Him for what He has done. Next is praying for the purpose of God to come-in your life, family, church, country, and world-by asking God for His will to be done. Thirdly, you can ask for provision, for God to meet your daily needs. Jesus also taught us to pray for purity-that God would forgive us our sins just as we forgive others who sin against us. We are to also pray for protection and deliverance from the Devil. And finally, we set our priorities when we acknowledge to God that "Yours in the kingdom, the power, and the glory."

Just like a good parent will give his child what he needs, God loves to give good gifts to His children. As you set out to pray faithfully, you begin on a lifelong adventure of answered prayer from your heavenly Father!

### Verses

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him" (1 John 5:14, 15).

"The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles" (Psalm 34:17).

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." (Phil 4:6-7)

## God can't love me. I have sinned too much

There is no sin or amount of sin too great for God to forgive. God sent His son Jesus to the world not for the perfect, but for sinners. Jesus said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick...I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance" (Mark 2:17).

Jesus hung on the cross next to a criminal. Though this criminal was deserving of death, because he believed in Jesus as the Son of God, Jesus told him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).

There is nothing you can do that is too big for God to forgive. He wants to forgive you and give you an abundant and guilt-free life. You just need to confess your sins to Him—tell Him what you have done—and ask Him to forgive you. Ask Jesus to be your Savior and your King, and He will set you free from the judgment and penalty for your sins. The Bible says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). God is able and willing to forgive you; you only need to ask Him.

### Verses

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5).

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:10).

"As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12).

## Benefits of the Cross

As believers in Christ, we know that Jesus Christ died on the cross for people's sins. But many do not know that the forgiveness of our sins is not the end of the story. The benefits of the cross are much more: Not only has Jesus freed believers from all condemnation, but we have a whole new identity, according to John 1:12 and 2 Corinthians 5:17. He has given us purpose, power, and hope to live here on Earth now!

Eternal life is not just about Heaven; it starts as soon as you accept Christ. Jesus' purpose was to preach and to heal—and now, so is yours. The source of His power to do these things was the Holy Spirit, and you have been given the same Holy Spirit that lived in Jesus.

The Bible tells us to "forget not all His benefits" (Psalm 103:2). Here are just a few of the many benefits of the cross for your life as a follower of Christ. May you rejoice and be encouraged as you consider each one:

- I am reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:18)
- I am redeemed and forgiven (Ephesians 1:7-8)
- I am a child of God (1 John 3:1-2)
- I am a saint (Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1)
- I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
- I am a citizen of Heaven (Philippians 3:20)
- I have eternal life (John 5:24; 1 John 5:11-13)
- I have received the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 2:12)
- I have been made alive with Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- I am God's workmanship (Ephesians 2:10)
- I am a temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19)
- I am blessed with EVERY spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3)

## What to Do When You Sin

The Bible tells us that, as followers of Jesus, we live in an interesting paradox: on the one hand, we have been made pure and blameless by what Jesus did on the cross for us and bringing us into the family of God (2 Corinthians 5:21), while on the other hand, we still live in this world where the struggles of selfish desires often lead us into sin.

The apostle Paul—just like you and I—wrestled with this reality: He said, “I don’t understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I don’t do it. Instead, I do the very thing I hate.” For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do” (Romans 7:15). But regardless of this current tension that we all endure, God is good and provides a way for us to live our life in a manner that pleases Him. Just as He has given us salvation through Jesus Christ, He has also provided forgiveness and cleansing for us through confession and repentance.

The Bible says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). To confess means to admit, as when David said to God, “Finally, I confessed all my sins to You and stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, ‘I will confess my rebellion to the Lord.’ And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.” (Psalm 32:5). The next step is repenting of your sin, turning away from it and walking in the opposite direction. As Christians, we do not want to be like a child who, though he apologizes every time, continues to willfully disobey his parents in the same way, day after day. Though God’s forgiveness will never fail, we do not want to take advantage of His grace. Instead, “Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us” (Hebrews 12:1).

Because of God’s goodness and faithfulness, you can receive complete forgiveness for your sins and the power to be victorious over them!

### Verses

“He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us” (Psalm 103:10-12).

“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the

Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.” (1 John 2:1, 2).

“For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin” (Romans 6:6, 7).

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Site Map](#)

© 2005-10 Global Media Outreach. All Rights Reserved.

## Why is there suffering and evil in the world?

The pain and suffering you see in the world today—and as you look back in history—is the result of mankind’s sin. God created the first human beings, Adam and Eve, to live in a perfect world—without sin or suffering—and in a perfect relationship with each other and with Him. When Adam and Eve chose to disobey the only rule God gave them, they allowed pain and death to come into the world. Their disobedience affected their relationship with God, with each other, and even with the earth and the rest of creation.

Even though it was human beings who disobeyed God and brought sin into the world, it was God who provided the remedy: He sacrificed His only Son so that people could be made right with God again and live in the way He created them to live: Loving Him and loving each other. The Bible says that Jesus “gave Himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age” (Galatians 1:4). Though we will live in a sinful world until we die, those who put their trust in Jesus have the assurance of eternal salvation, in a world free from sin, sickness, and death: For Jesus “will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him” (Hebrews 9:28).

### Verses

“The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. The LORD is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works” (Psalm 145:8, 9).

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

“For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:22, 23).

## What is the Bible?

In matters of authority, the words of the president or leader of a country have more power than the words of the average citizen. Because of his position, his words have the authority to affect the lives of many. Now, take the power of the president's words and multiply by the largest number you can imagine: That is the power of God's words, as found in the Bible. God told the prophet Isaiah, "So shall My word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11). Every word recorded in the Bible is inspired by God's Spirit and carries the authority and power of the Creator of the universe (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Because the Bible is the word of God, it has the power to change your life as you read and obey it (Hebrews 4:12). The Bible likens itself to daily bread that one must eat to sustain life. Jesus said, "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Luke 4:4). Just like a person needs to eat every day for strength, so the Christian needs to read God's Word to thrive spiritually. . If you are looking for answers and direction for your life, you will find them in the Bible: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). As you read and obey God's Word, He will speak to you, give you direction for your life, and make your life significant and successful! "Study this Book of the Law continually. Meditate on it day and night so you may be sure to obey all that is written in it. Only then will you succeed." (Joshua 1:8)

### Verses

"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes" (Psalm 19:7, 8).

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16, 17).

"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

## Christian Friends

When we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, we begin a new journey in life. The Bible says that we are "born again" spiritually and that we are a "new creation," and that the old things have passed away. The beginning steps of this journey are important if we are to grow in our new relationship with God and learn how to stay on the path He has set for us.

Along with reading our Bible and praying regularly, attending a local church and telling others about Jesus, an important component to healthy spiritual growth is spending time with friends who are believers. From our childhood years to adulthood, our friends influence what we think and what we believe. The Bible states the same principle: "The godly give good advice to their friends; the wicked lead them astray" (Proverbs 12:26).

Spending time with a Christian friend allows a new believer to gain a godly perspective on life issues, as well as providing a source of accountability in areas where we struggle. God often uses good friends who share a relationship with Christ and are led by the Holy Spirit to encourage and to challenge us to take the next step of growth in our walk with the Lord. The Bible says "As iron sharpens iron, a friend sharpens a friend" (Proverbs 27:17).

As soon as a child is old enough to have friends, his parents start to worry about what type of friends he has. Why? Because they know that the lifestyle and attitudes of their child's friends will greatly influence him. As a believer, the friends you choose can greatly affect the course of your life; it even determines your success: "He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed" (Proverbs 13:20).

The Bible draws a powerful word picture of relationships when it says, "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (2 Corinthians 6:14). Picture two oxen yoked together with the goal of plowing a field: If one goes one way, the other must go with it. Because the same is true with any close relationship, the follower of Jesus must be bonded with those who are walking toward life and godliness.

This does not mean we must abandon our relationships with non-believers. God has called each of us to be salt and light and to live publicly in a way that honors God. Jesus was called a "friend of sinners" because He came to seek and save the lost, and He spent time with them. We too must seek every opportunity the Lord puts before us to share the Good News of eternal life in Jesus Christ. We won't have those opportunities if we only surround ourselves with believers who already agree with us.

Though Jesus associated with sinful people, He selected His inner circle of friends carefully, including only those who were committed to Him. A big reason to be involved in a local church is to find others who will support you in your walk with God. In belonging to a church, you will

find others to walk with you in fulfilling God's purposes in your life: to love God, to love others, and to build the kingdom of Heaven.

## Verses

"Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers." (Psalm 1:1).

"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; but how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).

"Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God" (2 Corinthians 6:14-16).

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Site Map](#)  
© 2005-10 Global Media Outreach. All Rights Reserved.

## Why Do I Need to Attend a Church?

Gardeners know that if a seed is not planted deep in the ground, it will not grow up and produce fruit. A tiny seed, outside of the ground, is nothing but unrealized potential; it is not until the seed is buried in the earth that it can become a mighty tree, producing much fruit.

The same is with the follower of Christ. The Bible says that "Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing" (Psalm 92:13, 14). Belonging to a local church (a group of believers in a certain area) is about much more than where you spend your Sunday mornings. When you are planted in a church, you join in the work of Jesus Christ and receive the nutrients vital to your growth and productivity as a Christian.

Jesus said, "On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18). Jesus Christ is in the business of building, and what He has chosen to build is His Church, the group of His faithful followers who will perform His will on earth until He returns for them. When you belong to a local church, you receive the elements you need to be a successful Christian: good teaching, developing of spiritual gifts, and support of a family. Just like a newborn needs a family for his health and growth, so does the Christian! The Bible says, "God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; but the rebellious dwell in a dry land" (Psalm 68:6).

To become involved in a local church, begin by asking God to lead you. Then look in your area or ask believers you know about a good church. A healthy church is one that teaches the Bible, believes Jesus is the only way to God, and continues Jesus' work on earth through the power of the Holy Spirit. Planted in the local church, you will grow up to be a healthy follower of Christ and will produce much fruit!

### Verses

"He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf does not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper" (Psalm 1:3).

"And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy." (Colossians 1:18).

"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:19-22).

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Site Map](#)  
© 2005-10 Global Media Outreach. All Rights Reserved.