

THINK LIKE JESUS

What Do I Believe and Why Does It Matter?

LESSON 3 – HOW DO I HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

*“For it is by **grace** you have been saved, through **faith**—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.” **Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)***

Let's begin by saying we didn't start out in this life with a relationship with God automatically. We were conceived in the wombs of our mothers and born separated from God because of the inherited sin nature of our parents, who inherited it from their parents, all the way back to the first two people created by God in the garden, Adam and Eve.

1. **Key Question:** How do I have a **RELATIONSHIP** with God?

From the very beginning God had a plan to provide the way back into a relationship with him once and for all and forever. God began revealing his plan day by day, page by page throughout the Old Testament and the New Testament.

2. **SALVATION** is found in Jesus. Our acceptance of his gift must genuinely come from the expression of faith from the heart.

*“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” **Acts 4:12 (NIV)***

3. I believe a person comes into a **RIGHT** relationship with God by God's **GRACE** through **FAITH** in Jesus Christ. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

4. In order for the sacrifice of Christ to be applied to us individually, we must reach out and **RECEIVE** it by faith.

5. No matter what **TROUBLES** we face in this life, they are not in comparison to our salvation for eternity.

Adopting this same mindset allows the Holy Spirit to strengthen us as we face troubles and influence how God can use our circumstances. Our thankful hearts, in spite of our current situation, show that we value God's sacrifice of his Son, Jesus.

*“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”” **Galatians 2:20-21 (NIV)***

6. I need to walk in **GRACE** and **OFFER** grace to others.

As we look at others through God's eyes of compassion and love, we should be compelled to share our story of faith. Extending grace to others may not only save their lives, but it will also please God and build his church.