

**BELIEVE
IN GOD**

By,
Charles R. Chesnutt, Sr.

For God so loved the world that He gave
His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes
in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.
John 3:16

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This edition was published on July 23, 2017.

About the Author



Charles Chesnutt is a bankruptcy attorney in Dallas, Texas, where he has resided since 1979. He is married and the father of four. He graduated from Dallas Theological Seminary in 1983 and is an ardent student of scripture and has been so since completing seminary.

He is an attorney, an evangelist and an author who publishes his works without charge on BIBLEBOOKS.CO and publishes a website that argues for creation ex nihilo from the perspective of design in nature. That website is located at CREATIONDESIGN.ORG. His professional website is located at CHAPTER7-11.COM.

The author's wife, Mary Chesnutt aided significantly in writing this work.

Through no merit of his own, the author came to know Jesus Christ in the manner described in this booklet in December of 1973. That experience continues to this day.

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Chapter 1

Born Again

BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST,
AND YOU WILL BE SAVED

ACTS 16:31

Let's face it. If God is really there, why can't we see Him? Is there really some huge invisible God out there who never speaks and never makes Himself known? How can this God, who is said to have created us, not be able to communicate? Why should anyone believe that? And why should anyone believe some ancient Jewish religious writings that talk about Him?

Isn't it true that people believe in God because they need an invisible friend, or because they need a psychological crutch? Where is this God? If there is such a God, He must be hiding.

Let's see what those ancient Jewish religious writings (the Bible) really do say about God. Then you can form your own opinion.

So, does the Bible say that God is hiding Himself?

Yes, it does.

Does that mean that He makes Himself known to some but not others?

Yes, it does.

God does not make Himself known to everyone,¹ only to those who seek Him with all their heart.²

It is certainly not unusual for people who do not know God to ask the question, “If God is real, why can’t we see him?” Or, “Why is he silent?” This booklet tells you when and how God discloses Himself in no uncertain terms so you can know for yourself.

Let’s start from where Jesus says that God hides Himself. Jesus was conversing with a man named Nicodemus who asked Him the very same question. This is what Jesus said:

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God.^{3†}

Jesus is saying that not everyone can see the Kingdom of God because the Kingdom of God is hidden from everyone who is not born again. So, we can give up trying to perceive or experience the existence of God by any means other than being born again.

1. Second Corinthians 4:3 “And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,”

2. Jeremiah 29:13 “You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.” Searching for Him with your whole heart means that you will yield yourself to His commandments not to sin.

3. John 3:3 † Christians have been preaching and singing about knowing God in this life for centuries. For instance, see *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*, a hymn by Bernard de Clairvaux, 1091-1153 A.D., *Worship and Service Hymnal* (Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream IL, 2001), verse 4, “But what of those who find [find Christ]? Ah! This nor tongue nor pen can show, The love of Jesus, what it is. None but His loved ones know”

Then Nicodemus asks another question.

How can a man be born when he is old?
He cannot enter a second time into his
mother's womb can he?⁴

Jesus answers:

...Unless one is born of water [his mother's womb] and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.⁵

So, in order to see and enter the Kingdom of God, we must be "born of the Spirit." Jesus is saying that it is a spiritual thing. There is a spiritual reality that we can't see unless we are born again. It is, perhaps, like another dimension. How can there be a spiritual dimension that we cannot perceive?

Nicodemus wonders about this too, and Jesus answers:

Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.⁶

4. John 3:4

5. John 3:5. Here, Jesus specifies that one must be born of water because the right to be born again extends only to humans and not any other created being, such as angels.

6. John 3:7,8

Jesus is saying that being born again is like someone who feels the wind blowing. You know the wind is there because you can feel it, but it is invisible. Jesus is telling us that we can experience the Kingdom of God just as surely as one can feel the wind. We can see it spiritually but we can't see it physically. It's a spiritual thing.

But it is hidden to all who are not born again.

The next question is, of course, how can we experience it for ourselves? Jesus answers this question with an analogy.

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so the Son of Man must be lifted up; that whoever believes may in Him have eternal life.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.⁷

The account of Moses lifting up the serpent in the wilderness is found in the Book of Numbers, Chapter 21 in the Old Testament:⁸

7. John 3:14-16

8. The Old Testament is the Jewish Scriptures. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament are inspired by God, ie. they are Truth. Second Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is inspired by God..."

And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the standard; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived.⁹

Jesus was saying that He will be like the bronze serpent lifted up on a standard (a standard is like a flagpole with something on top). He will be lifted up on the cross just like the serpent was lifted up in the wilderness.¹⁰ How so?

When we sin it is as if we are bitten by the serpent of sin and we die spiritually because sin causes spiritual death.¹¹ When we are spiritually dead we cannot experience the reality of the Kingdom of God or experience eternal life because it is hidden from us. And we have all been bitten by the serpent of sin.¹²

The only cure is Jesus Christ.

Just like the statue of the serpent that was lifted up on a standard, anyone who looks to Jesus Christ for spiritual life will live.

That's why Jesus is so important. We cannot see the kingdom of God or experience eternal life without Christ.

9. Numbers 21:9

10. John 12:32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself."

11. Romans 6:23 "The wages of sin is death."

12. Romans 3:23 "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

But why did Jesus compare himself to a serpent when the serpent represents sin? Because in order to save us, Jesus became sin for us.¹³ He died on the cross to pay our penalty for sin (death). After His death, He was resurrected and in that resurrection he made us righteous in God's sight.¹⁴

But how can we believe in Jesus Christ when He is not here? How can we believe in someone or something that we have neither seen nor experienced?

The key is in the meaning of the word "believe."

Believing in Christ just means to trust in Him. It is the same type of trust that we place in a doctor that we have never met to perform an operation. Except when we trust in Jesus Christ, we have absolutely nothing to lose.¹⁵

But trust Him for what? Trust that through Him all of our sins have been totally forgiven. Like the serpent in the wilderness, all we have to do is look to Him and we will live.

This is a leap of faith, but it is not a leap from the point of certainty; it is a leap from the point of trust. Trust is what faith is and it is impossible to please God without it.¹⁶ Faith is trust, not certainty.

13. Second Corinthians 5:21 "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

14. Romans 4:25 "He was delivered over to death for our sins, and He was raised to life to make us right with God." NIV

15. The original Greek word means to trust. See *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, by Bauer, Arndt and Gingrich (Second Ed. 1958, Univ. Of Chicago Press), s.v. πιστεύω, "believe (in), trust."

16. Hebrews 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please God..."

God resolves our doubts *after* we trust in Christ because if God resolved these doubts before we come to Christ, there would be no faith. And we would always wonder if we had just talked ourselves into believing. The awareness of God has to come from outside of ourselves or we will always be doubting.

So how does it work?

Seeing the Kingdom of God is a two-step process. The first step is to come to obtain forgiveness for all of our sins because it is sin that causes spiritual death. We can get forgiven for all of our sins by trusting in Christ. Christ died on the cross to pay for our sins so that we can be forgiven¹⁷ but we have to look to Him to receive the forgiveness. If we won't look we will die because we have all been bitten.

Trusting in Christ is simple. It may be done through prayer. For instance, one may pray "God, I come to You and I am trusting in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of all my sin." You may pray this prayer even though you are not certain that anything at all will happen. That is what faith is. It is trusting even though you are not certain.

How much real faith does one need? Just enough to trust sincerely in Christ. Some people trust in Him and some do not, but the invitation is open to all.¹⁸

17. Romans 5:8 "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us."

18. Revelation 22:17 "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come.' And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost."

Jesus explained it pretty well in Matthew 13:31-32. He said the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which is a seed that is the size of a pinhead. But when the mustard seed is planted, it grows up and becomes the largest plant in the garden.

The mustard seed is a picture of the faith necessary to come to Christ. Coming to Christ is just a pinhead of faith that grows into something wonderful. It grows into the most wonderful thing that one can ever imagine. It grows into a life without emptiness,¹⁹ a life filled with God's peace and assurance,²⁰ a life of spiritual equanimity and it grows into a life where one actually knows Christ, a life that is eternal.²¹ And when a husband and a wife both come to Christ and sincerely follow Him it grows into a family that is bound firmly together by cords of love—cords that are as soft as a kiss but as strong as iron.

And it starts with a leap of faith that is little more than a hop just to see if it all is really real. When one comes to Christ, the faith that one needs is small but afterwards one arrives in an entirely different world. This different world is a spiritual world called the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of God is not of this world.²² It is spiritual dimension that is superimposed upon mortal life.

19. The internal void is spiritual death. It is cured by the forgiveness of sin and a true commitment to obey God's word.

20. Philippians 4:7 "And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts..."

21. John 17: 3 "This is eternal life that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

22. John 18:36 "My kingdom is not of this world..."

We are spiritually dead before coming to Christ²³ and spiritual death often presents itself as an internal void or an emptiness that can never be filled. When someone who is spiritually dead trusts in Christ and makes a heart-felt, sincere surrender to God's will (a complete yielding), then he or she (like the author) will experience a salvation that is *quite* unexpected. The void disappears and in its place there is an inner peace that is beyond comprehension.²⁴ That peace never leaves.²⁵ Salvation is what happens when we trust in Christ. It means that we have been saved from spiritual death.

Sound inviting? It is indeed and it is real.

The beauty of it all is that God does it. We don't. If we did it we would always wonder if it was us and not God who did it. At the back of our mind, we would never know if we had found God or found nothing more than belief. That's why He does it and not us. The real experience of knowing God can be neither faked nor imagined. So when He does it, He leaves no doubt that it is indeed Him and not us.

Awake you that sleep, and arise from the dead, and Christ [Christ, not us] shall give you light.²⁶

Trusting in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of all sin is all that is needed for eternal salvation. However, it is not all that is needed to really experience the presence of God. Indeed, some people who have trusted in Christ experience nothing as

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a result of it. Some people don't feel any different as a result of trusting in Christ and many believe that one can never really experience the presence and peace of God. Others simply pretend. Why do some people who have trusted in Him never really know Him? Why?

The answer to that is the second step.



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Chapter 2

Knowing God

WHOEVER HAS MY
COMMANDMENTS AND KEEPS
THEM...
I WILL LOVE HIM AND REVEAL
MYSELF TO HIM

JOHN 14:21

The first step to knowing God is to get forgiven. The second step is to yield.

Yielding means to yield to God's will. It means to obey Him and that means to turn away from sin. After all, if we trust in Christ for the forgiveness of sin but don't care enough to turn away from committing the very sins that He died to save us from, what then? What is the purpose of being forgiven for sin today if we intend to commit the same sin tomorrow? It makes a mockery of the cross.

But if we are forgiven today and do not intend to commit the same sin tomorrow, but falter when tomorrow comes? Or what if we really want to turn from sin but can't seem to do it? That's different. That is what Christianity in this life is. It is a series of growth and changes and it's all about heart.

Yielding, which is explained in this chapter, is essential because it results in knowing God and knowing God is something that we experience. Knowing God is what makes every day Christianity really worth while. Trusting Christ without bothering to know Him is like being given an unlimited gift certificate for dinner at the finest restaurant in town and leaving after eating the bread and butter. You were there, but you never got what you came for.

Truly knowing God is the apex of all human experience. It is beyond marvelous; *that's why people spend their lives to know Him better and better*. Christians are not building a stairway to heaven or looking for a psychological crutch. They have found something and it is immensely rewarding.

They have discovered the knowledge of God¹ and discovered that it is a spiritual love affair. They have discovered for themselves that God's love is real, that it is something that they can experience and it is totally accepting and unconditional.² It is the love that took Jesus Christ to the cross.³ It is not just a lifestyle. It is life.

Jesus taught in crystal clear terms how to know establish a relationship with Him. He tells us when and how He makes Himself known to us:

He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself [make myself known] to him.⁴

Jesus is telling us that if we have His commandments (that is if we bother to find out what He is saying), and then, knowing the commandments, if we *keep them* then we have shown ourselves to be someone who loves Him. And as a

1. John 17:3 "This is eternal life that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." Romans 11:33 "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!"

2. This love is described in First Corinthians 13.

3. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whoever believes [trusts] in Him will have eternal life."

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result, Jesus says, “I will disclose Myself to him.” This is what knowing God is. It is when Jesus Christ discloses Himself to us. He makes Himself known to us. Christianity is an experiential relationship with Jesus Christ. To know Christ is to experience eternal life first hand.⁵ Christianity is knowing God and we come to know Him by yielding to His word.

Notice how carefully this scripture is written. This is not formula; it’s a love note. Keeping His commandments to get God to do something will not get us there. But keeping His commandments in order to know Him will. Just like a human love affair, the thing that makes a difference is heart. This is why the scripture says “He who has my commandments and keeps them is the one who loves me.”

It’s a *relational* thing, not a *duty* thing; it is a love thing, not a set of rules. It is all about love because that’s what God is. God *is* love.⁶ But although it is a spiritual love affair and love is all over it, don’t worry about loving Him enough, so quit trying. He takes care of the love part. When He makes His presence known, you will love Him. You won’t be able to stop yourself and you won’t want to.

But there is a problem and that problem is sin. Sin kills love and sin kills relationships. It kills relationships with other people and it kills relationships with God. Sin kills us spiritually. From cover to cover the Bible repeatedly warns us that sin kills. Like a loving spiritual Father, God works with you, enables you, encourages you and weans you away from sin by

5. John 17:3 “And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.”

6. First John 4:8 “...God is love.” God is love, but He is not just love. He is much more. God’s love is described in First Corinthians 13.

replacing it with Himself. He changes us from the inside out, but make no mistake about it; He is very serious about sin. Move away from sin. Sin is spiritual death.

That is why God requires us to have His commandments and *keep them* in order to know Him. Among other things, turning away from sin means sincerely committing not to lie,^{7†} and not to cheat, steal, injure, commit adultery, fornicate, commit homosexual acts, do drugs, or fail to forgive.⁸ It means never to hold a grudge; never be greedy; and never take advantage of others.⁹ It means never condemn and never judge anyone (including ourselves) for whatever sins they commit.¹⁰ Turn awas from any sin separates you from Him.¹¹

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The Bible is not a book about religion. The Bible is a book about spiritual life and spiritual death. It is a warning that sin kills spiritual life¹² and a book that shows the way to experiencing spiritual (eternal) life in the here-and-now. And it is a warning that those who live a life of spiritual death will ultimately die an eternal death.

We live in a world that is filled with people who are spiritually dead and they know it. We have all been there to one extent or another. The most prevalent symptom of spiritual death is an internal void, an emptiness that will not go away. Some people spend lifetimes trying to fill this emptiness but they never succeed because the void is spiritual death and nothing will fill it. The desire to fill it is a hunger for spiritual life.

The analogy of scripture is a sheepfold, a pen where sheep are fed and protected. The door to the sheepfold is Jesus Christ¹³ because Jesus Christ gives spiritual life.¹⁴ Once inside the sheepfold we are fed with spiritual food¹⁵ and we drink the water of spiritual life.¹⁶

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16. John 4:10 “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”

Jesus Christ is the light of the world¹⁷ but He cannot be known outside of the sheepfold.¹⁸ So don't expect to find Him or understand anything about Him¹⁹ until you walk through the door²⁰ and discover for yourself that it is all true.

Knowing God does not automatically happen when we cease from sin and it does not automatically cease because we fall back into sin. It is not a contract or a formula. It is a relationship, a spiritual love affair. Sin does kill, but we can always repent and find forgiveness.²¹ But just like human lovers who kill love with sin, knowing God will eventually cease when we choose darkness rather than light.²²

Any Christian who is sincerely trying, haltingly perhaps and sometimes unsuccessfully, to turn from sin by turning to Jesus Christ will experience the presence and the peace of God and that Presence will strengthen him and empower him not to sin.

17. John 8:12 "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

18. John 1:9 "There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him."

19. First Corinthians 1:18 "For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

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22. First John 3:19 "And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil."

So if He is all powerful, why doesn't He just stop all sin? Because love is the most important thing to Him. *Love is the one thing that we can give to Him* and free will (the freedom to choose) is essential because love must always be a choice. One cannot love if one is not free not to love because love without the freedom to choose is not love; it is duty. Religion because of fear is duty; religion because of obligation is duty; religion because of habit is duty. God does not settle for duty. Nor do you. Neither God nor any of us are content with a lover who loves because he has to because that is not love.

God does not settle for imaginary love nor should you settle for an imaginary God.

Does that mean that we have to be sinless in order to know God? No. Living a perfect life is not required. God created us the way we are and he had an excellent reason for doing so. Don't every think that He is not fully aware of your imperfections, weaknesses and sins. Our fallen nature is the reason why Jesus Christ died on the cross. Don't ever think that God requires perfection. God does not require perfection; what God requires is heart. God is all about heart.²³ Why? Because it is a relationship, not a religion.

23. First Samuel 16:7 "God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

God responds to heart, just like we do.²⁴ He does not require perfection in order to love any more than we require perfection before we love someone. What He wants is heart. Why does He want heart? He wants heart because ultimately what He wants is *you* and He will not settle for fake.

He made us to be imperfect and He knows it. Christianity on the outside is a progression from sin toward sinless. But Christianity on the inside is a magnificent journey toward knowing God better and better; it is a journey that is motivated *because* of the relationship, not for the purpose of obtaining the relationship. The relationship and the yielding occur together. We do not journey because of obligation or because of fear, but because of a relationship.²⁵ God is all about heart because love is all about heart and God is all about love because God *is* love.²⁶

Christianity is a progression toward righteousness in this life.²⁷ We are already righteous in Christ;²⁸ our Christian life is our progression toward conforming to the righteousness that we already have.²⁹ It is based upon knowing Him because

24. John 14:21 “He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me”

25. See Second Peter 1 (the entire chapter)

26. First John 4:8 “God is love...” First John 4:8 “The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” See the author’s *Endless Love* which discusses the three human loves and the fourth love, which is God’s love.

27. Second Peter 1:1-10. This entire progression is enabled through the actual knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:2,8).

28. First Corinthians 1:30 “But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness...”

29. Romans 8:29 “For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son...”

it is only through knowing Him that we can continue to be righteous after having sinned. He empowers us through our relationship with Him. Everything is based upon knowing Him. He *makes* us righteous³⁰ all we do is cooperate:

His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of Him...³¹

Not only does He grant us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him, but He also enables us to partake of His divine nature.

He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature...³²

That's the tree that we were discussing, the tree that grows from the mustard seed. It can grow slow or it can appear suddenly. It all depends on the sincerity of our surrender. That is what Christ was talking about when He referred to the

30. Second Corinthians 5:21 "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." Phillipians 3:8,9 "I count all things as loss compared to the surpassing excellence of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God on the basis of faith."

31. Second Peter 1:3

32. Second Peter 1:4

Kingdom of God. It starts with salvation and grows into a tree when it is watered with righteousness and heart. It grows like a plant that we planted. We plant and we water, but it grows by means of a power that is not ours.³³

When we yield to Him, He lives in us.

If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.³⁴

And when we sin, we can confess and He forgives us.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.³⁵

The result is knowing God, and one of the greatest benefits of knowing God is a supernatural peace:

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.³⁶

33. Matthew 13:23 “And the one on whom the seed was sown [the Gospel of Jesus Christ] on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit, and brings forth, some a hundred fold...”

34. John 14:23.

35. First John 1:9

36. Philippians 4:7

Once a person has truly perceived and experienced a full measure of this peace, he cannot turn away. It is overwhelming, magnificent and irresistible. But it is spiritual,³⁷ not physical. It is like the wind. One can feel it but not see it.

The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from or where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.³⁸

That is why we cannot simply decide to believe in God. Someone who is spiritually dead cannot see the things that are spiritually alive because they can only be spiritually discerned.

The natural man does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God. For they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.³⁹

It is for this reason that Jesus taught that one must be born again before one can perceive the Kingdom of God.

37. John 18:36 “My kingdom is not of this world.”

38. John 3:8

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Chapter 2

Knowing God

WHOEVER HAS MY COMMANDMENTS AND KEEPS
THEM...

I WILL LOVE HIM AND REVEAL MYSELF TO HIM

JOHN 14:21

The first step to knowing God is to get forgiven. The second step is to yield.

Yielding means to yield to God's will. It means to obey Him and that means to turn away from sin. After all, if we trust in Christ for the forgiveness of sin but don't care enough to turn away from committing the very sins that He died to save us from, what then? What is the purpose of being forgiven for sin today if we intend to commit the same sin tomorrow? It makes a mockery of the cross.

But if we are forgiven today and do not intend to commit the same sin tomorrow, but falter when tomorrow comes? Or what if we really want to turn from sin but

can't seem to do it? That's different. That is what Christianity in this life is. It is a series of growth and changes and it's all about heart.

Yielding, which is explained in this chapter, is essential because it results in knowing God and knowing God is something that we experience. Knowing God is what makes every day Christianity really worth while. Trusting Christ without bothering to know Him is like being given an unlimited gift certificate for dinner at the finest restaurant in town and leaving after eating the bread and butter. You were there, but you never got what you came for.

Truly knowing God is the apex of all human experience. It is beyond marvelous; *that's why people spend their lives to know Him better and better.* Christians are not building a stairway to heaven or

looking for a psychological crutch. They have found something and it is immensely rewarding.

They have discovered the knowledge of God¹ and discovered that it is a spiritual love affair. They have discovered for themselves that God's love is real, that it is something that they can experience and it is totally accepting and unconditional.² It is the love that took Jesus Christ to the cross.³ It is not just a lifestyle. It is life.

1. John 17:3 "This is eternal life that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." Romans 11:33 "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!"

2. This love is described in First Corinthians 13.

3. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whoever believes [trusts] in Him will have eternal life."

Jesus taught in crystal clear terms how to know establish a relationship with Him. He tells us when and how He makes Himself known to us:

He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself [make myself known] to him.⁴

Jesus is telling us that if we have His commandments (that is if we bother to find out what He is saying), and then, knowing the commandments, if we *keep them* then we have shown ourselves to be someone who loves Him. And as a result, Jesus says, “I will disclose Myself to him.” This is what knowing God is. It is when Jesus Christ discloses Himself to us. He makes Himself known to us. Christianity is an experiential relationship with Jesus

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Christ. To know Christ is to experience eternal life first hand.⁵ Christianity is knowing God and we come to know Him by yielding to His word.

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is. God *is* love.⁶ But although it is a spiritual love affair and love is all over it, don't worry about loving Him enough, so quit trying. He takes care of the love part. When He makes His presence known, you will love Him. You won't be able to stop yourself and you won't want to.

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That is why God requires us to have His commandments and *keep them* in order to know Him. Among other things, turning away from sin means sincerely committing not to lie,^{7†} and not to cheat, steal, injure, commit adultery, fornicate, commit homosexual acts, do drugs, or fail to forgive.⁸ It means never to hold a grudge; never be greedy; and never take advantage of others.⁹ It means never condemn and never judge anyone (including ourselves) for whatever sins they commit.¹⁰ Turn away from any sin separates you from Him.¹¹

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It is for this reason that Jesus taught that one must be born again before one can perceive the Kingdom of God.

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God⁴⁰

Try it yourself and see. He does it; not you.

To the one who truly wants to find God but wonders if there is a God to find, let me say that I, the author, have been where you are. I was just as doubting as you are or even more so. But I found God exactly as this booklet describes, and then I opened the Bible and read about what had happened to me.

I found Him by trusting in Christ for the forgiveness of all sin and the sincerely yielding to Him at the same time. I did

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