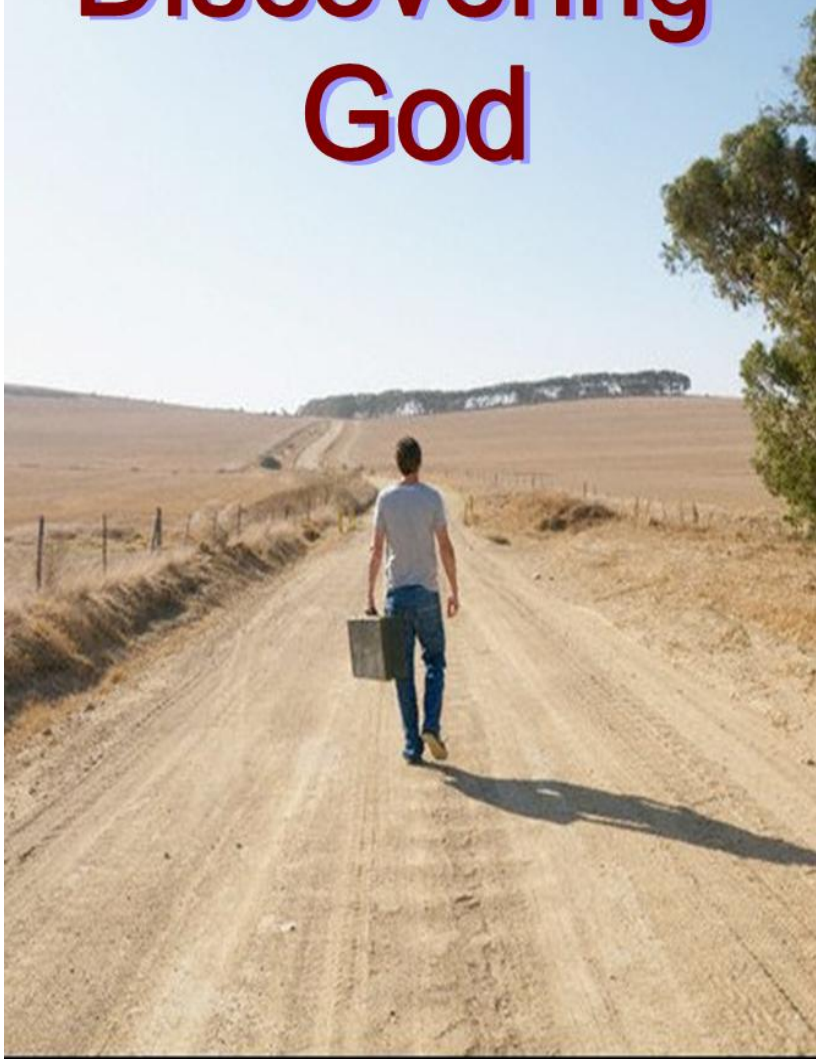


Discovering God



Discovering God

Are you interested in really knowing God, discovering who He really is and what He is really like? Maybe you are somebody who is already actively trying to discover who He is and what He expects from you. You may be somebody who believes that there is a God and that you and He are just fine with the way things are. You may also be somebody who really hasn't given a second thought about God in your life or you may even doubt His very existence. But, if you have any interest in discovering God I want you to know that you can find Him.

The first thing that you need to know is that you were created by Him and He has a special interest in you. He wants you to discover Him, to know Him because He passionately loves you.

The common thinking among most people today is that there are many ways to get to know God, but the truth of the matter is that we have to come to Him on His terms. While going to church, praying and doing good things can be a good starting point, they alone are not sufficient to really get to know Him.

Here is the Problem

The problem that stands in the way of you and I discovering God is that He is perfect and we are imperfect. In His perfect nature He cannot overlook sin. He must deal with it and according to the Bible the punishment for all sin is death.

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 6:23 (NIV)

The Bible also says that all of us have sinned in some way against him.

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” Romans 3:23 (NIV)

The truth of the matter is that even though we can do some good things we are not good. We have a sinful nature that more often than not rebels against God, His laws and His authority over us. In other words we are broken, unable to come to God because of that brokenness. God wants you to be able to know Him or have a relationship with Him, but your brokenness caused by sin keeps that from happening.

Jesus is the Answer

The good news is that God is not out to get you, He desperately wants you to know Him. He wants you to find freedom and forgiveness for your sinful behaviors and wrong attitudes towards Him. However, because He is perfect something had to be done about the sin issue. So, He made a plan to deal with the sin issue and that is where Jesus comes into the picture.

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8 (NIV)

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, yet He willingly came to this earth to live among us. Even though He never sinned He was put to death on a cross to pay the punishment for all of mankind's sin. Not only did He die, but He showed that He truly was the Son of God, by rising from the dead three days later and then ascending into heaven to be with God the Father. God allowed all of that to happen to His own son just because he loved you.

Jesus is the Answer

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." John 3:16-17 (NIV)

Jesus' death made it possible for you to come to God and discover who He is and what He is really like. The sins of today or of your past do not have to stand in your way anymore!

What do you need to do?

The one thing you do not need to do is, somehow offset your sins by doing good things. Even if you tried you would never make it. There is just no way for you to make things right on your own. But, since Jesus already took care of the punishment for you there is a way for you to come into a right relationship with God. You need to respond to God's love and offer of forgiveness in two ways.

You need to respond by believing or having faith

"and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith." Phil 3:9 (NIV)

*"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)*

What do you need to do?

Having faith is much more than just believing that Jesus existed. The Bible says that even demons believe that Jesus existed and know who He really is, and yet they are not saved. Faith is believing that Jesus' death on the cross was the full payment for your sins. You can no longer trust in being a good enough person to make it into heaven. You have to completely trust in the finished work of Jesus to be the only way for you to get to know the living God of the Bible.

You need to respond by repenting

In other words you have to make a choice to turn around - make a choice to follow Jesus instead of doing things your own way.

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord," Acts 3:19 (NIV)

Repenting is the right response to the truth of God's love and forgiveness offered by Jesus.

What happens now?

When you turn to Jesus in faith and confess Him to be your Lord and when you repent of your rebellion and sin against God, you will become a new person. The Bible calls this experience being “Born Again”. This “Born Again” experience means that your heart that once may have been indifferent or even cold to God is replaced by a new heart that is drawn to God and only wants to get to know Him even more.

When this occurs you will find yourself becoming more aware of God’s love for you which will only make you want to live for Him all the more. Your desire to serve and obey Him will get stronger. But, instead of doing it out of obligation or fear you will want to serve Him as a way of telling Him thank you for all that He has done for you.

Not only will things begin to change on the inside of you, but your eternal destination will be moved from hell where you would face the punishment of your own sin and be separated from God for all eternity, to heaven where you will forever be in God’s presence free from all the guilt and shame of your past.

You can discover God today.

If you are willing to have faith that Jesus is Lord and that His death on the cross was the complete payment for your sins.

If you are willing to turn from your old life of rebellion and sin against God and make a U-turn in life to become a follower of Jesus.

Then you can discover God! Simply pray a prayer something like this asking Him to forgive you and to come and take control of your life.

“Jesus, I know that I have sinned against you, but I know that you died for my sins. I want you to come into my life and be my Lord. I ask you to take control of my life, I am giving it to you as a way of saying thank you for all your love and forgiveness that you have offered to me. I will live for you for the rest of my life. Thank you for saving me!”

My Discovery

As a teenager I knew that there was a God, but did not realize that I needed to respond to Him in any way. I didn't really think that God had much concern for me, therefore, I didn't concern myself to much about Him. I mean I would pray occasionally if there was something I wanted. I also attended church occasionally with my family, but that was as far as it went. When I was in my early teen years my mom happened to start attending a church that told me of my need to make Jesus the Lord of my life, but I wasn't interested. I wanted to live my own life, I was having fun or so I thought. You see in my mind turning my life over to Jesus just meant that I would straighten up and quit doing the obvious things, which for me was drinking, experimenting with drugs as well as many other things that I won't mention here. Yet, all the while I was out there supposedly having fun, there was definitely something missing in my life. I desperately wanted to be loved.

I was almost 16 when I came home one night after spending the evening drinking with my friends only to be confronted by my mom who was very aware of what I had been doing.

My Discovery

To my surprise the only thing that she did was send me to my room to pray about it. I don't know why I did it, but when I got down on my knees I prayed this very simple prayer. "Lord, I guess it's time, I ask You to help me straighten up. I give You my life." I got up not realizing how much my life was about to change. As the next couple of days unfolded I found myself saying to God, "If I wasn't completely serious the other night, I am serious now. Come into my Life!" Something had happened, Jesus had come in and I knew that He really loved me. Things began changing in me, where before I had no real concern for God, now there was something in me that wanted to live for Him and I really wanted to get to know Him better. I was Born Again! Throughout the years there have been many ups and downs, many successes and many failures, but the greatest thing in this life has still been that day I discovered the God of the Bible who loved me so much that He gave his son as the punishment for my sin.

And you can know Him too! My prayer is that He will do for you what He did for me and more. I know He will, just ask him!

-Dean

If you have made the decision
to follow Christ,
OR

If you would like more
Information,

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