



Are You Racing through life without knowing the goal ??

*What happens when I die?
Is there really a God who loves me?
Does anyone really care?*

Sometimes I feel like a failure; what can I do?
Can I find peace and happiness anywhere?
I feel trapped by habits and obsessions; can I get free?

If you are asking any of these questions, READ ON!

There Is A Way to discover what life is about and where it is going. To be forgiven for past failures and be given another chance.

*To know what will happen when you die.
To know that there is someone who cares.*

That way is through a personal encounter with the living God who created you for a purpose, and who deeply and eternally loves you—an encounter you can have today. Isn't that GOOD NEWS!!!

Read On To Find The WAY To Know God!

God is not a concept, a religious theory, or a creation of our imaginations. The Bible is a book about God, and it tells us that:

God is **personal**. *"God is love." (1 John 4:8)*

God is **supreme**, infinitely powerful and perfect. *"God rules over all the kingdoms of the nations. In His hand are power and might." (2 Chronicles 20:6)*

God is the **eternal creator** who existed before all else. *"The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth." (Isaiah 40:28)*

God is **holy**, moral, good, fair, and just. *"The Lord is good." (Nahum 1:7)*

"God's judgments are true and just." (Revelation 19:2)

What Is Life All About?

The Bible says that we were created by God, for a purpose, and out of love, so that we could know the joyful adventure of living in a relationship of intimacy and companionship with our loving Creator.

*"In your (God's) presence, there is fullness of joy, in your right hand are pleasures forevermore."
(Psalm 16:11)*



Pictorially, this relationship can be represented by two chairs facing each other. God is in one and we (Self) in the other. Face to face with God there is communication, interaction and joy where we can know and experience life in all its fullness.

God created us to live a full life with this personal relationship with Him at its center. When that relationship is right, we can relate creatively to ourselves, others, and the whole created world. That was how God began human history and intended it to continue forever. It is how God meant us to live and how He wants us to live.

"And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good." (Genesis 1:31)

"Everything created by God is good." (1 Timothy 4:4)

To be at peace and fulfilled is God's desire for us all.

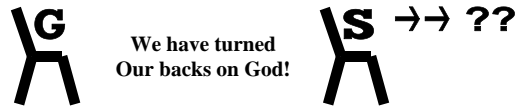
Why, then, are there so many problems? Why is the world not all "very good"? Why are our lives in such disarray?

The Problem

Despite the availability of a life in relationship with the loving God, the Bible tells us that we are not satisfied. We want to be self-sufficient, to be our own gods. Out of pride and rebellion, we have each chosen to turn from God. The Bible calls this sin, and says that no one is free from it.

*"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
(Romans 3:23)*

Pictorially, this can be represented in this way:



Now we look for love and meaning in the wrong direction. We seek life, but our seeking only makes the distance grow.

And what results from our turning away from God?

Separation—we cannot know or experience God's love. *"Your sins have made a separation between you and your God." (Isaiah 59:2)*

Powerlessness—we cannot live life as God intended. *"The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."
(Matthew 26:41)*

Broken relationships—we can't love others as we should. *"The works of the flesh are...enmity, strife, jealousy, anger."
(Galatians 5:19, 20)*

Judgment—we are declared guilty by a moral God. *"For the wages of sin is death." (Romans 6:23)*

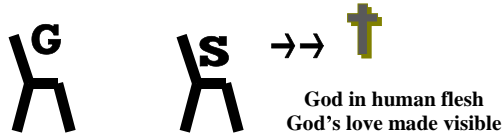
We have created these problems and must live with them. The harder we look for solutions on our own, the further away from God we move, and the worse our situation becomes. Is there any way out?

The Good News!

Our best efforts and noblest deeds cannot overcome the consequences of our own sin, for the separation and penalty are too great. But God, personally and freely, offers us a way out, a new chance, a hope. That offer, rooted in love, is called grace, and it comes through Jesus Christ.

The Bible says that Christ was God coming to us, born on earth, and that in His life, death, and resurrection He showed God's love and power. He made God's love visible. *"The love of God was made visible to us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so we could live through him."* (1 John 4:9)

Pictorially, this is who it says Christ is:



The Bible also says that by His life and death Christ addressed the problems which our sin created.

Reconciliation with God was made available.

"I am the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)

Power to live a full and meaningful life was provided.

"Christ crucified...to those who are called, the power of God."

(1 Corinthians 1:23,24)

Love for others was made possible.

"Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God." (1 John 4:7)

Payment for our sin was offered.

"He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree." (1 Peter 2:24)

Jesus Christ made real life accessible to us once again!
That is the Good News!

But how can it be ours personally—today?

The Bible says that our basic problem is that we have **turned away** from God and are unable to return on our own. The only solution is to ask Jesus Christ to heal our broken relationship with God. Pictorially, this means asking Christ to turn our chair back towards God.



This is FAITH. Faith means inviting Christ to bridge the chasm between ourselves and God, to be our mediator with God.

Faith is not a set of beliefs, a moral life, or church activity. Faith is **asking** Christ to make us right with God, **trusting** that He, and only He, can and will, and **seeking** to live as He wants us to live.

Christ has been invited to be in the center, in control. This is the forgiven, eternal life. It has meaning and purpose.

Faith makes the difference!

We do not deserve eternal life. A personal relationship with God is not something we can earn. But out of love, God offers us new life through faith, an offer that is called grace!

"By grace you have been saved through faith and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God."
(Ephesians 2:8, 9)

Receiving Christ or being born again both mean:

- Admitting our own failure to love God and others, and turning from that failure. (**Confession/Repentance**)
- Asking Christ to forgive us and to live in us, then trusting that He can and will do both. (**Faith/Belief**)
- Committing to live like and for Christ. (**Discipleship**)

When we give Christ our lives we receive a gift—reconciliation with God and life in all its fullness!

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

How Do I Receive This Gift?

A new relationship with the living God is yours when you pray, from the heart, like this:

"Jesus, I am separated from God. I have tried to run my own life, but can't. I need to have my sin forgiven and my relationship with God restored. I believe that you died for me and I thank you. I ask you to take control of my life and to make me the kind of person you want me to be. I want, with your help, to follow you."

If you have never prayed this prayer, why not do it now? It is how you receive the gift of life, and the prayer is always answered.

(Jesus speaking) "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him." (Revelation 3:20)

**God is trustworthy and will respond!
Isn't that Good News!**

If you prayed this prayer or one like it from your heart, Christ is in your life. You may not *feel* His presence, but God promised to hear your prayer and has answered it. You are new and forgiven, a child of God. You have a purpose for living and you have been given eternal life!

"To all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God." (John 1:12)

NOW you need to:

Pray regularly.

Study and obey God's Word (the Bible)

Find a **church** home.

Share your new commitment with someone.

God bless you on the path ahead!

If you have questions, or have prayed this prayer, please email pastor@calvinpc.org

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