



RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD: REVIEW

Before Sin

God had a unique relationship with mankind before sin entered His creation. God dwelled on the earth with humanity (Genesis 3:8).



After Sin

When Adam and Eve sinned, the relationship that God had with us was shattered and we were separated from Him.



After Jesus

Jesus' death on the cross allows us to reconnect with God. Our relationship with God will not go back to how it was in Eden until we die, but at least we can form a relationship with God again.

MAN

GOD

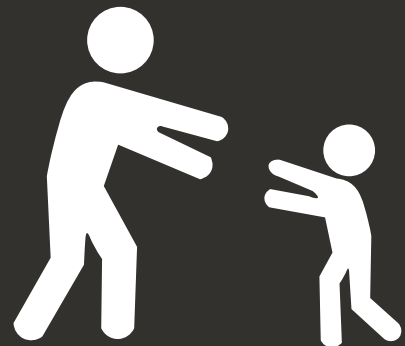


Jesus



Eternity

Christians are able to spend eternity in Heaven with God. Our relationship will no longer be tainted by sin and we will dwell with God as Adam and Eve did before they sinned.



ETERNITY



WHY A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS IMPORTANT



We Are God's Children

Faith in Jesus | Once we trust in Jesus for salvation and repent of our sins, we are adopted into God's family as His children (John 1:12).

Adopted | We are not God's physical children, but we are His legal children. Because God adopted us, we can share in His inheritance (Ephesians 1:11)

God's Family (The Church) | All of God's children make up "The Church". We are all "brothers and sisters" through Christ.

Father - Child Relationship | God takes the role as our Father by providing for us, loving us, protecting us, and ultimately dying for us.

God's Desire for a Relationship With Us

God does not need us for anything yet He still wants to have a relationship with us.

God calls us to Himself (John 6:44)
God sent Jesus to die for us (John 3:16)
God pursues us (Revelation 3:20)
God adopted us (John 1:12)

God continues to forgive and pursue us after countless instances of rebellion against Him, complaints about Him, disrespect to Him, and disregard for Him.

"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

Our Desire for a Relationship With God

God loves us unconditionally (Romans 5:8)
God is perfect and holy (Isaiah 6:3)
God is majestic and powerful (1 Chronicles 29:11)
God deserves all worship and glory (Revelation 4:11)

We have the opportunity to have a relationship with God... how can we not pursue this more than anything else?

"To have found God and still to pursue Him is the soul's paradox of love, scorned indeed by the too-easily-satisfied religionist, but justified in happy experience by the children of the burning heart."
AW Tozer¹

"We may imagine we want a thousand different things, but God is the one we really long for. His presence brings satisfaction; His absence brings thirst and longing. Our longing for Heaven is a longing for God – a longing that involves not only our inner beings, but our bodies as well. Being with God is the heart and soul of Heaven. Every other heavenly pleasure will derive from and be secondary to His presence. God's greatest gift to us is, and always will be, Himself."
Randy Alcorn²

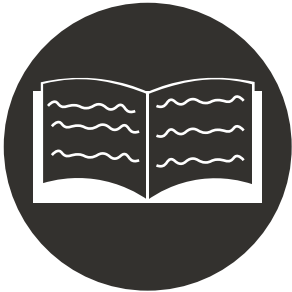


HOW WE CAN DEVELOP OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD



Communicating With God

No relationship can last without communication and our relationship with God is no different. We can communicate to God through prayer. It is also important to have quiet moments with God in order to listen to God.



Learning About God

We can grow closer to God when we learn about Him. This can be done through reading the Bible or other Christian books, attending worship services, or even through videos online. By learning about God, we can better understand Him and therefore develop our relationship with Him.



Serving God

Serving God is a great way to show our love for Him. When we serve God we usually rely on Him for protection and wisdom with how we serve. For example, serving God might lead us to share the gospel in unsafe environments or to assist with construction projects which can be dangerous.



Praising God

As with any relationship, it is important to speak words of affirmation to each other. We can do this with God by worshipping or praising Him. We can worship God through song, prayer, or even by desiring Him.



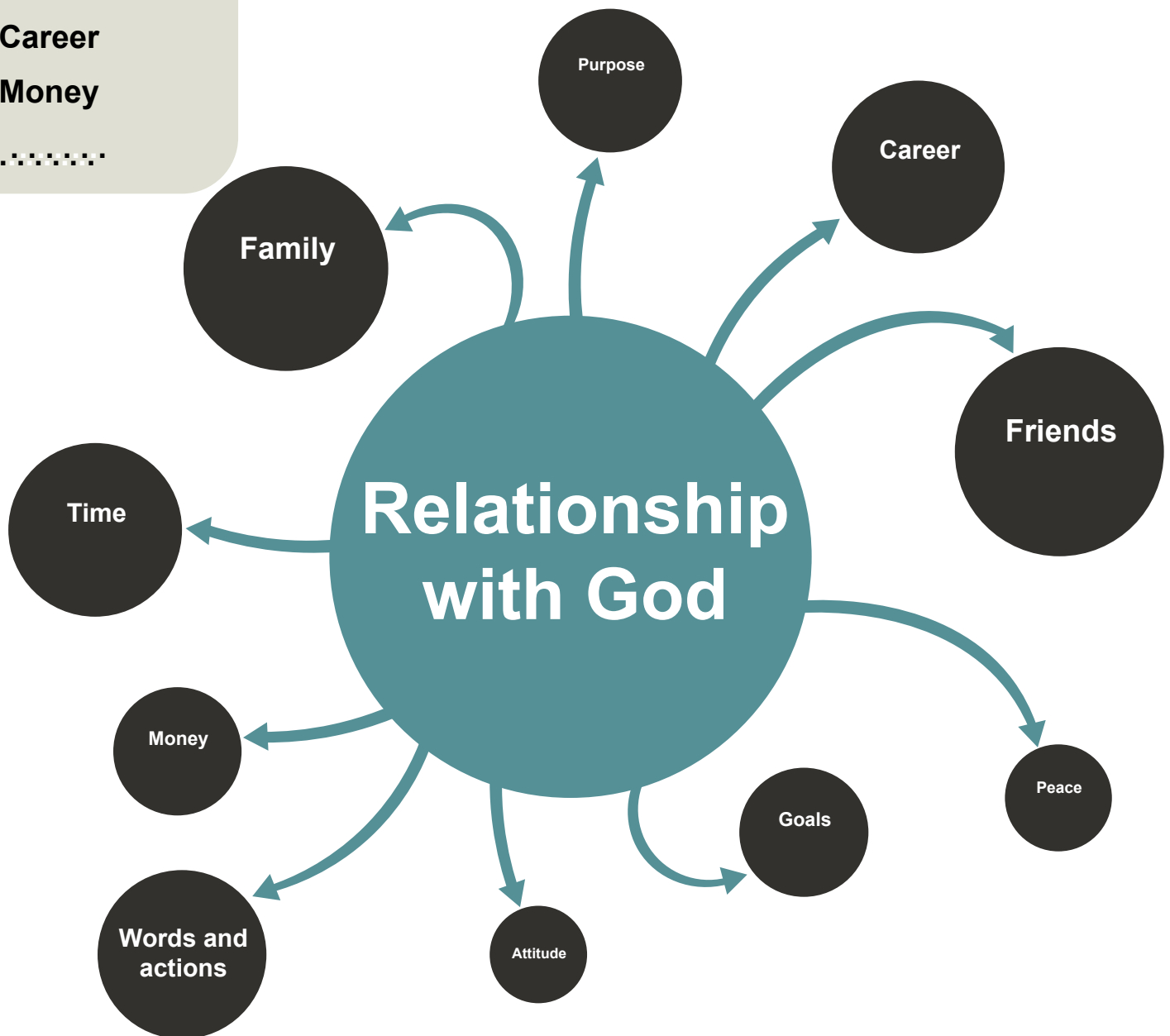
Obeying God

Since sin separates us from God, refraining from sin will draw us to Him. By obeying Him and resisting temptations to sin, we will draw closer to Him. We should also obey God out of love and respect for Him (John 14:15).



IMPACT OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

- 1 God
- 2 Family
- 3 Friends
- 4 Career
- 5 Money
- ↓



Our relationship with God is not just another important component of our lives, it consumes our whole existence. Every aspect of our lives is influenced by our relationship with God. How we spend our time and money is impacted by this relationship. Our goals, careers, relationships with other people, and our actions are all changed once we develop a relationship with God. This relationship changes everything about us.



SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

Spiritual disciplines are habitual activities that Christians put into practice for the purpose of growing in spiritual maturity.

Prayer

Prayer is communicating with God. Christianity is a relationship and no relationship will survive without communication.

Fasting

Refraining from food (or other time-consuming activities) develops self-discipline and frees up time to focus on our relationship with God.

Worship

Worship is the proper response to who God is. When we treasure God we will worship Him in response. We can and should worship God at all times throughout our daily lives.

Reading the Bible

As we read and study the Bible, we learn more about God, man, sin, salvation, history, and the future. God also communicates to us through the Bible.

Fellowship

Gathering with like-minded believers allows us to grow in unity and love. We can also encourage one another and help each other grow in spiritual maturity.

Apologetics

Learning about the evidence for the Christian faith is helpful in evangelism and discipleship as well as personal faith. Our relationship with God can be strengthened by affirming that Christianity is true.

Evangelism

Evangelism is sharing the gospel with unbelievers. This is expected of all Christians and should occur on a regular basis.

Stewardship

Stewardship is using the gifts God has given us for His glory. Two such gifts that we need to surrender to God are our money and our time.