

# Youth Cross

Experience

Christian Magazine



What is  
**CHRISTIANITY**  
to **YOU**?

**AM I**  
**Living**  
**RIGHT?**

**OUT of**  
**RELIGION**

Finding the  
**PURPOSE**  
of **CHRISTIANITY**

Is Religion  
**CONFUSING**  
**YOU?**

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# Table of Contents

Editorial		
Religion, Relationship and Christianity Page 1		
Are You Religious? Page 2	The Journey of Becoming a Christian Page 3-5	
Christianity, a Relationship and not a Religion Page 6		
Spiritual Awakening Page 7		
The Relationship of Christianity Page 8		
Out of Religion and Into Relationship Page 9		
Poem Page 10		
Power Verses Page 11		
Bible Stories Page 12		Riddles Page 13
Be	Blessed	Always

# Editorial

## Out of Religion

Religion has been derived in many ways over your Creator?

the decades. To each their own beliefs are followed. There are so many different denominations and in the full gospel church, there are those who do things differently than others. You may ask, which is the right way to follow? I guess the right way to follow is Jesus! Christianity without Christ is nothing, it means nothing and to say you are a Christian and a follower of Jesus Christ yet do not know who Jesus is, is just as futile. To live as a Christian, you MUST have Christ in you. You MUST strive to take on the nature of Christ. You MUST be able to show love and compassion like Christ. Without the change in your life to become more like Jesus, following Christianity will get you nowhere. It will just be another religion that helps you feel good because you believe in something higher than you – that's if you believe!

You should ask yourself “Does God really exist?” and if He does, where is the proof? **Your existence is the proof.** You having reason to live is the proof. God created man in His image (Genesis 1:27), therefore to know God is to just look at the closest thing He created who is YOU! It's amazing right? And if you look at yourself and believe that there is a God who created you, then wouldn't you want to know

Some will say yes, and if your answer is Yes, then you want relationship. Relationship links one to another. There is a link between almost everything and there is a link between you and God. There was a link from the moment you were conceived. You are linked to God, from whom you have come and to whom you will go. Your life on this earth is meant to strengthen and grow that link. Think about it this way: when you draw a line with a pencil it appears thin at first. The more you go over that same line, the thicker it becomes until it is thick enough for you to see clearly. By moving the pencil back and forth, you added weight to that thin line and the thicker the line, the harder it is to erase. Likewise, our relationship with God strengthens each time we connect with God.

The more we move back and forth to God in prayer, the more weight we carry spiritually and it becomes harder for the enemy to erase us. The pencil had to move from one point to the other in order for the line to become bolder. The first point represents us. The second point represents God. Jesus is the pencil and He is connecting the two points. A relationship with God is only possible through Jesus.

# Editorial

## Out of Religion

CONTINUED...

“I’m a Christian, I believe in God and I have a relationship with God, what’s next?” If you are in this stage of life, my next question is “What are you doing for God?” You see, religion can blind you from being who God created you to be. Relationship makes you pour your heart out and be a little radical if you need to. When you love someone, you can’t hold it in. You do things to please that person. You act out of the ordinary because of the love you feel in your heart. You do it for a person who makes you happy and gives you joy. Why can’t we do the same for our God who is Love? **1 John 4:16** “**God is love.**” We search for peace when we have a God who is Peace. **Ephesians 2:14** “**For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us.**” In His presence there is fullness of joy. The bible says that the joy of the Lord is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10), that means that our Joy comes from God. If we have love, joy and peace from God, how can we not want to praise Him with our whole being and worship Him with our whole heart? God makes life worth living. It doesn’t matter how crazy everything is around you, because if you have God, you have life. You have strength, restoration and the ability to overcome the toughest challenges in your journey.

You are revived because you are not following a religion, you are living in a relationship with a Supreme Being. The church is the bride of Christ and you are the church. You are to become one with Christ. Live together with Christ until we get to heaven and spend eternity with Him. This is the most beautiful relationship we could have. The husband tells his wife until death do us part. Christ tells you – the church – after death you will be with me in paradise. No more tears, no more pain, no more heartache. Not even death can separate you from God because if you die, you will still live. You have the gift of life through Christ, with Christ for eternity. A love story that will never end.



**Britney Jenine**  
**Editor-In-Chief**

# RELIGION, RELATIONSHIP AND CHRISTIANITY

BY PADMINI GOVENDER (TOOTSIE)

## Where in the Bible does it say Christianity is a relationship?

In Romans 12:1, the life we live, we live to God as living sacrifices. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, we can say with great joy and confidence in God's word: the new life is not a religion, it's a relationship.

## What is the relationship between Christians and their God?

God in Christianity is believed to be the eternal Supreme Being who created and preserves all things.

## What is the relationship between Christianity and religion?

Religion is man's attempt to get to God on God's term. Christianity is God's attempt to get to man on man's term. At the heart of religion lies fear, ritual, sacrifice, a central place of worship and a "Do Good Be Good" effort on man's part to earn and deserve their place with God in heaven.

## Is Christianity a religion according to the Bible?

Christianity is religion. It's pure religion. As the epistle of James submits. It is religion that makes a relationship with God possible when it comes to our own response to God's grace within us.

Christians have a daily living relationship with their God. Faith in Jesus is not a religion. It was religious people who executed Jesus. Although Christianity is thought of as a religion that is not what Christianity is all about. It's relationship!

A personal relationship with a loving Father (God the Father). A relationship with someone who is willing to give His life for us - Jesus (God the Son). A relationship with the Holy Spirit (God the Holy Spirit) who guides and comforts and helps us in our day to day living. Jesus did not come to start religion. He came to have a relationship with you. He has a purpose and a destiny for your life. A Christian is not just believing in God because

even Satan believes that God exist. A Christian is being in a relationship with God and surrendering to him completely. It is not just going to church every Sunday as "made religion" claims that you have to be a member of their church to be saved and you have to go by their beliefs and traditions



in order to receive the blessing to enter into heaven. Man-made religion comes up with their own rules and if you are not following them you are going to hell. Being in a relationship you are no longer under the law instead you are under God's grace. Religion divides and kills - this is why we have so many backsliders and so many self-righteous people looking down on others. The truth is this. If we are in a true relationship with God we wouldn't look down on others but rather we would be like Christ and bring them up with love and mercy and we wouldn't be so ready to judge or condemn people instead we would show them that there is love and hope in Jesus Christ.

**John 1:12 "But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in his name."**

**"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God not a result of works, so that you may boast."**

**Ephesians 2:8-9.**

My personal relationship with God is one that grows with each passing day and matures at different levels. Nurture your relationship with Him today.

# ARE YOU RELIGIOUS?

BY KRISTIAN .M. MARION

If you look at ACTS 17, we find Paul visiting the city of Athens, where a plethora of idols was found. It also mentions in verse 21:

(All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

When Paul begins preaching, everyone gathers to hear him out. His first statement to them is quite interesting, in verse 22:

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way, you are very religious..."



Now, you would ask, how could someone who didn't know the One true God be considered religious? And if this is the case, is being religious a good thing? Even more concerning is the fact that they talked all day about the latest trends and fashion. They were too focused on the things of man instead of God. But wait a minute, can this relate to the church today?

Does not the church have a plethora of idols in the hearts of its congregation? Is not the church adapting to the things of this world? Are we not trying to fit in this world

by following trends and labelling them 'Christian' with Jesus stamped on them? Besides that, has the God we serve become unknown to us?

For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

Has the God of the Bible become a stranger to us as we do what we think makes Him happy? Or do we condone the thing of the world in our lives with the belief that He understands? Have we brushed off his commands to live a life that offers comfort? Is the world's pull on our hearts stronger than the desire to follow Jesus?

For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising Him from the dead.

Yes, Judgment Day is imminent, and it first starts with the house of God, so it's time for the people of God to repent and turn to God. It's time for the church to know their God because He has become a stranger in the church for too long. We must fit into God's purpose because He is too big to fit into our complacency. It's time for the church to stop being religious!



# The Journey of becoming a Christian

BY BRITNEY JENINE

Christianity is life with Christ through Christ. There is no Christian who doesn't believe in Christ and if you are a Christian who doesn't believe in Christ Jesus then you are not a Christian.

Christianity came out of Judaism because Jesus was Jewish and if you read the Old Testament, God's people were Jews. But after Jesus came and brought the message of grace and fulfilled prophesy that was prophesied in the Old Testament about God's plan to bring man back to God and save us from all sin, Christianity came about ... Christianity is followers of Christ Jesus and believing the message that He came to save the world from sin. So Jesus came to earth as God in the flesh to sort of reset things and change the way things are done. The old ways required blood sacrifice to atone sin, from the fall of man. But when Jesus came, He became the blood sacrifice to atone sin once and for all. To learn more on this read Hebrews 9:11. That is why following Christianity is believing that Christ is the one sacrifice for your sin and believing that it's only through Him that you can have a relationship with the Father and receive eternal life after death.

The journey of becoming a Christian:

**Acts 9:1-19**

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

# The Journey of becoming a Christian

CONTINUED...

So then, what does Saul's conversion have to do with our journey?

1. **The Way** – Saul knew Jesus was the Way but never accepted Him as the Way. To become a Christian you have to believe that Jesus is the Way to the Father.
2. **The Light** – Saul had an encounter with Jesus. An encounter is an experience which every Christian should have. That encounter with Jesus is what assures you that God is real. Something changes within. That encounter with God changes you.
3. **Saul became blind** – Becoming a Christian makes you blind to the sins of the world and blind to the pleasures that this world offers. We ought to keep our eyes fixed on Christ that we may live a godly life.
4. **For 3 days Saul didn't eat or drink anything** – This speaks of submission. Becoming a Christian means submitting to God. The bible says submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you (James 4:7). We need to fast and pray to bring our flesh under the submission of God so that the Spirit of God can move.
5. **Something like scales fell from Saul's eyes and He was baptised and filled with the Holy Spirit** – When you encounter Jesus and dedicate your life to Him, your spiritual eyes open. Your spiritual man awakes. The scales that had you blind, that had you stuck in darkness falls out. But this time you aren't seeing life in the eyes of your flesh, but you are seeing your life as God ordained it. You are seeing who you are in Christ and you are becoming a new man.

**Romans 10:9-10**

**“If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.”**

You accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. You accept that you live because He lives. It's not the natural it's the spiritual. Living your life as a Christian is a spiritual life. You can't live as a Christian in the natural because your flesh is too weak to receive what the Spirit of God is giving you.

**Baptism is very important as a Christian. Baptism with water and Baptism with fire.**

Baptism with water is dying with Christ and resurrecting with Christ. When you go into the water and you are dedicating your life to Jesus you are letting go of the old and receiving the new. You are receiving a new life. The sin in your old life and in your past has been washed away and a new life has been given to you in Christ Jesus.

**2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”**

Baptism with fire is receiving the Holy Spirit.

**Act 2:1-4 “When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”**

Let's look at Jesus' Baptism.

**Matthew 3:16-17 “As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”**



# The Journey of becoming a Christian

CONTINUED...

Jesus did everything that we are meant to do. He was sinless yet He still led by example. He was baptised with water and when He came out of the water the Holy Spirit descended upon Him.

Water baptism is repentance and dedication.

Fire baptism is receiving the power of God to work in you and through you. He is what gives authority to your voice. You can't tackle the enemy on your own because we wrestle not against flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12), but the power you need to live as an overcomer comes from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the only one who can teach you about the things of God. The bible says that the Spirit of Truth will come upon you and He will guide you to all truth. He will tell you only what He hears from the Father and He will tell you what is to come.

Jesus began His ministry after receiving the Holy Spirit. The disciples began their ministry after receiving the Holy Spirit. Paul began his ministry after receiving the Holy Spirit. We are called to go out there and be witnesses to the world about Jesus. (Matthew 28:19-20). This can only be done with the Holy Spirit. If you are telling the truth you have to have the Spirit of Truth to help you tell the Truth otherwise what truth are you telling?

Every Christian needs to go through the water baptism and receive the Holy Spirit to be saved.

## Acts 2:38

**“Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”**

So if you are a new believer in Christ or want to rededicate your life to Christ I urge you to be baptized if you haven't and desire the Holy Spirit.

The Power of the Cross and the Power of the Holy Spirit are two things a Christian should never forget.

The Cross makes us righteous, holy and redeems us from the bondage of sin.

The Spirit of God reveals to us the wisdom of God and enables us to walk a righteous life by teaching us about spiritual realities with Spirit taught words.

*The Cross before me, the world behind me. The Spirit enables me to walk with God.*

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## How does this walk with God end?

Through death but life after death. It ends with having a place in Heaven. You're either going to heaven or hell. Heaven is real but so is hell. Your walk with Christ on this earth comes to an end when your flesh fails and your soul ascends to heaven. As Christians we also believe in the rapture that will take place. So it's either you're going to die on this earth and your soul goes to heaven or you are going to be raptured when Jesus comes back and you are taken to heaven with Him. When you get to heaven you will receive judgement and you will give an account on how you lived your life on earth. You are going to be judged for the good and the bad even if you are saved. But God is going to look at your heart. He is going to see if you knew Him. And if you know Him and have a relationship with Him, then He has a place for you. If you pledged your life to Him and didn't turn back, He has a place for you. The thing about living as a Christian is knowing with certainty that there is life after death. That there is new life awaiting you, in your spiritual form up in heaven. And you will see Jesus, physically. You will be with God, and angels and your loved ones all dining, having the best time in the most beautiful place.

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**1 Corinthians 1:18 “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”**

# Christianity, a Relationship and Not a Religion

BY MARCELINO REDDY



A religion is a system of rules and practices that are followed in order to make a person feel they are living in a way that satisfies God. You follow the rules and the practices and you can have confidence that you're appeasing God thus increasing your chances of a blessed life, and depending on that religion's perspectives, increasing your assurances of the quality of your life after death.

People who are good at practicing religion generally feel they have purpose in life; they experience confidence and peace.

Religion is a Relationship with a God who can listen to you when you call upon Him through prayer and by your faith He will answer you. Jesus sent His Holy Spirit after His death to represent Him. Jesus lived on earth and died to take away the sins of this world, saving us all and He provides direct access to God. The Christian faith teaches that humanity cannot attain salvation by our own merits, but rather, we are saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ. It is God, not us, who is the primary participant who enters a personal relationship with us, setting us free from our bondage to sin and death and clothing us in righteousness. This, of course, is true. Our justification is solely a gift of God that is firmly grounded on our belief and confession that we are sinners in need of grace and that grace is found sufficient in the death of

Jesus Christ, who loves us and gave himself up for us. In other words, we place our faith in Christ, and God enters our hearts. There is nothing we do to earn this special intimacy with our Creator. Clearly, Christians benefit from a personal relationship with God, this is even so after death we can enter an eternal home and remain alive as we do not die but live in eternal bliss. Jesus loves you just as you are, and you are made perfect in Him. Christ has set us free.

**Romans 11:6** “And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.”

**Deuteronomy 4:29** “But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

When you go to prayer from now on, ask the Holy Spirit to help you to understand His love. Pray for more of His presence. When we are in fellowship with God and our hearts are aligned with Him we will feel His love. Many preachers don't know the love of God and have lost His presence because many have stopped spending time with Him. Examine yourself, renew your mind, and truly seek Christ daily.

**Hosea 6:6** “For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.”

**Mark 12:33** “and to love Him with all your heart and with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself, which is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

**Romans 8:35-39** “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

All you have to do is ask Him to come into your life and He will.

# SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

BY BRITNEY JENINE

There comes a time in one's life where we feel the nudge, then the resounding call to "Wake Up!" It didn't feel like we were asleep. On the contrary, it felt as if we were doing okay and everything was fine – but truth is, it wasn't. We were sleeping, sinking spiritually. Falling for every trap of the enemy, bypassing every warning or call to pray. It seemed normal. It seemed safe, but, the shock we receive when the bomb goes off leaves us startled.

**Ephesians 6:12** "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

**Ephesians 6:18** "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people".

**Romans 8:16** "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children".

**Romans 8:26-27** "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God."

Without knowing the Holy Spirit, we cannot sense the attacks of the enemy. We cannot discern the devil's ploys because our spirit man is asleep. We cannot ask God's Spirit to plead our case if He is no longer a part of our lives. If we lock Him in a room and tell Him to stay there, how can He help us?

**"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will"** Romans 12:1-2. Keep your mind protected. Put on the helmet of salvation.

Keep your mind clear to hear the voice of God. Keep your heart pure, to know the difference between right and wrong. Keep your spiritual eyes open to discern if this is what God will do. Study His Word to know who He is – His characteristics, His heart. Spend time in prayer and worship. Draw near to God, soak yourself in His presence. Let it be so that even if you are nowhere near a church, you can still be in God's presence. That's being rooted in Christ, that no matter where you are, Jesus is there.

Desire the anointing. Desire the power of God to work in you. If you haven't tapped into the spirit yet, fast and pray, wait on God. Yearn to speak in tongues that you may be filled with the Holy Ghost. The fire of God within you can burn a light so bright that whatever dark hole the enemy throws you in, the darkness will not consume you. You have authority in Jesus. **"But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Christ from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you"** Romans 8:10-11. You have Power within you, it's time to wake up and use it.

**"But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth"** 1 John 2:20. **"The anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit – just as it has taught you, remain in him"** 1 John 2:27. You need the Holy Spirit to teach you and not only to teach you about the deep things of God, but to teach you how to protect yourself and loved ones from spiritual attacks. He will teach you how to stay sharp when the enemy is trying to sneak into your territory. He will teach you how to fight through prayer and you will win, because you are on the winning side.

Strengthen your spirit man. Stay awake spiritually. Fight in the Spirit. Prophecy in the Spirit and live a holy life pleasing to God.

# The Relationship of Christianity

BY LORRAINE PILLAY

Christianity is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is not rituals, ceremonies, or sacraments. It is a personal, spiritual, loving relationship with a real and living Saviour, Jesus Christ. Paul stated in **Galatians 2:20** **“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.”** Jesus Christ dwells (lives) within the born again believer through His spirit. One can have His personal relationship with Jesus Christ only through ‘repentance’ to God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. You cannot have Christ living in you while you are living in sin. Christ died for us on the cross, enduring all for the sake of our sins. He is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God. He is the Author and Finisher of our lives.

Christianity is unique. No one claims or can have a living personal relationship with Buddha or Mohammed or other gods. Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and God manifested Himself in flesh. He is the Lamb of God. Religion is a set of rules and practices that are followed in order to make a person feel they are living in a way that satisfies God or their gods. People who are good at practicing religion generally feel they have a purpose in life.

A relationship is totally different. A relationship is not without expectations and standards, but a relationship is based on my performance. Relationships provide you with all the things religion promises but cannot provide, and does so with a foundation that is not based on you, but the other person’s willingness to love you. Therefore, when it comes to a relationship with God, His commitment to love becomes the most substantial foundation in the universe. The practice of this relationship is one of believing you are loved therefore you love in return, knowing it is accepted before it is even given. In a relationship with God you know it is enough because Christ is enough and not out of guilt, fear, or law, but out of joy and love.

In a religion the rules, customs and traditions are the point. In a relationship rules, customs and traditions may exist, but they are not the point or even the means of the relationship, the person is. For example, we have rules in marriages, but they are not the focus.

True worship is based on relational love since God is love (1 John 4:8). Paul wrote about the key to the life of faith. It was not a

mantra or ritual, it was a person who had loved them well. “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith”, love is a command; Relationship with God and man is the prize.

When you become a born again Christian baptised by the blood of Jesus Christ you will love God unconditionally. God also loves us unconditionally without expectations of any kind. You will live a life that is pleasing to Him according to His Word. The life we live to God is as living sacrifices through the power of that relational connection. We can say with great joy and confidence in God’s word; the ‘new life’ is not a religion - it is a relationship!



# Out of Religion and Into Relationship

BY PASTOR RICCO J GOVENDER

When we look at what Christ came to accomplish on the Earth, we see that He was strongly against the religious order of that day and age. Christianity is not just a mere religion nor should it be treated as a mere religion because sometimes just like the religious order of Jesus' day there was a lot of opinions and ideologies of man, whereby they twisted the word of God to suit their own agenda and their own benefit rather than catering to the spiritual wellbeing of the flock.

Christianity is not a religion, Jesus did not come to start another religion on the Earth but to restore man back to the Father, that He may make His abode within you and I. Being a Christian is all about acknowledging that Christ dwells within us and we ought to express the Christ that is in the inward part of our heart outwardly. Jesus came to deliver us from the religious order and shift us into having a relationship with God the Father.

**Romans 8:15-17** “For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.”



Religion is routine based whereby you just go to Church, sing a few songs, and listen to the Word, week after week but there is no transformation within the lives of the believers. God desires in this season that we have an intimate walk with Him, when we look at the word intimate or intimacy in the Hebrew, it is the word “Yada”

and “Yada” means to “Pursue Intimacy” and as we pursue intimacy with the Father as a continual culture, the bondage of mere religion will be broken within our lives. Religion can sometimes dominate and cripple your relationship with the Father if you are not sensitive enough to the Spirit of the Lord.

Jesus calls the religious order being the Pharisees and scribes a brood of vipers, it is very important to note that

“vipers” carry neurotoxin and neurotoxin is responsible for killing the neurons (nerve cells) which are vital for transmitting and processing signals in the brain in other words the religious system will damage and change the way you think (mentality).

When we look at the beginning of creation, we see that man was always in relation, always communing with God the Father and sin separated us from this privilege but through the death of Christ that relationship has been restored, and we have been adopted into the family of God, this is why when we pray the first words we utter are “Our Father” because our spirit identifies that we are sons of the Most High God, this is something that cannot be comprehended in just mere religion.

Religion will allow the spirit of apathy to rest upon you whereby you carry a lack of interest and enthusiasm for the things of God whilst when you are in a relationship with Abba, you will have a drive for the things of God because you want to please the lover of your soul, nothing is ever done out of obligation nor compulsion but it is done out of love.

We can do everything that we may think that would please God on a religious routine basis but if it is not done through having a relationship with Abba, then it is done in vain however if we fall into this category, we must draw near to God as the Bible says “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you”, relationship is all about making the first attempt in acknowledging your sonship in drawing near to your Father.

Religion can keep you in bondage and it has kept many people in bondage over the years but Jesus has come to set the captives free through having a relationship with Abba Father. The greatest experience of your life is when you are in open communication with the one who created everything through His Word, sometimes we can only look for the hand of God being only His provision for us instead of seeking His face being in pursuit of knowing Him and the power of His resurrection.

The world that we live in is govern by frequencies and there are dozens of frequencies all around us but in the midst of all those frequencies, there will be a soft still voice, being the voice of the Father and when we know how to adjust our frequency accurately we will hear His voice. Relationship with our Father will always supersede religion as a whole, in our pursuit of everything in life never forget to pursue an intimate relationship with the Father, this is what will sustain you in this season and be an anchor to your Christian walk with God.

# Some Air

BY K.P. STORM

Life makes me wonder why there's an urge for me to resist  
It pains me with reflections of the life I could still live  
I wish it would be easy and my troubles disappear  
But my words are just so queasy that I want nobody to hear

Oh God, please come help me, I wish that it would stop  
For a moment, for a day, just a time will be enough  
The world around me collapsing, how I'd pray for it each day  
Do I pray? Should I pray? The answer is just pray!

The frustrations they are real  
The temptations seem so close  
They seem so good to taste, to try but really are so cruel

The anger is ripping, the entrapment it hurts  
My voice will hurt more if a word misunderstood

# POWER VERSES

1 John 2:15-17

*Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever*

Hebrews 11:5-6

*By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

Romans 12:1-2

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

1 John 5:2-3

*By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.*

# BIBLE STORIES

## (Acts 8:4-17)

### Philip in Samaria

Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city.

### Simon the Sorcerer

Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, “This man is rightly called the Great Power of God.” They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his sorcery. But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.



# GAMING TIME!!!

## Bible Riddles



1. I consist of 150 chapters with one them being the longest in the entire bible. Who am I?

2. "I am the Rose of Sharon and the lily of the valley". I am known as one for love and consist of conversation. Who am I?

3. I speak of a man with a measuring line. I speak of the flying scroll and the four chariots. Who am I?

4. I am a letter to those who have been called, who are loved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ. My brother is James. Who am I?

5. I am known for dreams and visions. I am one of the major prophets in the bible. Who am I?

# Youth Cross Experience

Thank you to our Team who have contributed towards making  
**YOUTHCROSS EXPERIENCE a SUCCESS.**

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## **Next Issue :**

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Women's Edition - August 2023

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Editor-In-Chief

**Owned by God**  
**Redeemed by Christ**  
**Sealed with the Holy Spirit**

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