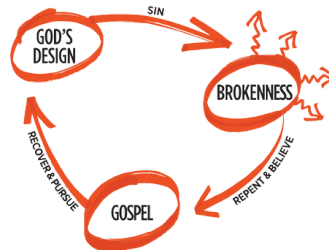


STEPS OF FAITH TO BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH JESUS

The Bible, God's Word, lays out what God desires of us as humans - enjoy an intimate relationship with Him and represent Him by making the name of Jesus famous for all the right reasons. That requires taking certain steps through faith.

The steps of a man are established by the Lord...Ps 37:23
Without faith it is impossible to please God...Hebrews 11:6



WHERE IT BEGINS

SALVATION

- **God's Design** - Everything, including humanity, was created by God without flaw. Humans were made to be in relationship with God and each other, and live in perfect peace, joy and love and be representatives of His here on earth. Gen 1
- **Sin** - Life doesn't work when we ignore God and His original design for our lives. We selfishly insist on doing things our own way. The Bible calls this sin. We are all guilty of sin. Sin separates us from God and His design. The consequences of our sin is separation from God - in this life and for all eternity. Romans 3:10, 23; 6:23a
- **Brokenness** - Sin leads to a place of brokenness. We see this all around us and in our own lives as well. When we realize life is not working, we begin to look for a way out. We tend to go in many different directions trying different things trying to figure it out on our own. Brokenness leads to a place of realizing a need for something greater. Romans 1:25
- **Gospel** - At this point, we need a remedy - some good news. Because of His love, God did not leave us in our brokenness. Jesus, God in human flesh, came to us and lived perfectly according to God's design. Jesus came to rescue us - to do for us what we could not do for ourselves. He took our sin and shame to the cross paying the penalty of our sin by His death. Jesus was then raised from the dead - to provide the only way for us to be rescued and restored to a relationship with God. John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Romans 6:23, 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Corinthians 5:21, 15:3-4
- **Repent and believe** - Simply hearing the good news is not enough. We must admit our sinful brokenness and stop trusting in ourselves. We don't have the power to escape the brokenness on our own. We need to be rescued! We must ask God to forgive us - turning from sin to trust only in Jesus. This is what it means to believe and repent. Believing, we receive new life through Jesus and God changes our eternal destiny. Mark 1:15; Ephesians 2:8-9
- **Recover and Pursue** - God's Spirit empowers us to pursue His design and assures us of His presence in this life and for all eternity - 2 Cor 5:17; Titus 2:11-13

What should I do now?

Now that you have heard this Good News, God wants you to respond to Him. You can talk to Him using words like these: God, I am broken and separated from you and I realize it's because of my sin. I believe Jesus Christ came to live, die, and was raised from the dead to rescue me from my sin and make me right with you. Forgive me. I turn from my selfish ways and put my faith and trust in you. I know that Jesus is Lord of all and I want to follow Him.

For more information and practical tools, visit

fbcstrongsville.com/resources.



BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

Baptism does not save but it is an outward display of the decision to repent of sin and follow Jesus. It is identifying with Jesus in His life, death, burial and resurrection and announcing to everyone that He is Lord of your life. There is no specified time length in the Bible between being saved and being baptized. The Biblical example we have is that once an individual has repented of their sins and put their faith in Jesus, they were baptized. Romans 6:3-5

ON-GOING

Relationship with God comes only through repentance and faith in the Gospel. The On-Going items below do not save but flow out of relationship with God.

GATHER

Join a local, Bible believing, Gospel preaching church. Gather faithfully with that body of believers every chance you get ultimately for the purpose of scattering to servangelize. Hebrews 10:24-25

SERVANGELIZE

Change someone's world by loving them through serving them and proclaiming the Gospel to them. Mark 16:15; Galatians 5:13

READ AND MEDITATE ON THE BIBLE DAILY

Know the Bible; study it, meditate (consider deeply) on it, memorize it, stand on the truth of it and apply it. That does not take being a scholar but discipline and a plan. Find a plan at fbcstrongsville.com/resources. 2 Timothy 2:15; Psalm 1:2; Psalm 119:11

PRAY DAILY

It is an incredible thing that we can talk to the creator of the universe. That is the privilege we have in prayer. Matthew 5:43-45, 6:5-15, 21:13, 26:41; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-3

RESIST SIN AND SATAN

We are to train ourselves to resist sin and Satan in the power of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 9:26-27; Ephesians 4:17-32; Hebrews 5:14; James 4:7

FORGIVE AND SEEK FORGIVENESS

Just as God forgives us and makes our relationship with Him right in Jesus, we are to forgive and seek forgiveness to make our relationships right here on earth. Colossians 3:13; Ephesians 4:32

GIVE FINANCIALLY

Financially giving to the local church, the relief of those in need and world evangelism is investing in eternity and says a lot about where our hope and affections are placed. 1 Cor 9:14, 16:2; 2 Cor 9:7; Galatians 6:6

BE DISCIPLED AND MULTIPLY

Discipleship is intentionally equipping believers with the Word of God through accountable relationships, through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in order to replicate faithful followers of Christ. Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:2

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