

# **My Christianity – is it mostly rote religion or a genuine interactive and growing relationship with God Himself ?**

## **What is God’s primary purpose for me after I’m forgiven and born again ?**

- Is it for me, to keep trying to improve my behavior according to God’s written word (the law), without actually changing who I am – with frustratingly little success even in such basic things as truly forgiving others. Then, once in a while, my trying with decreasing enthusiasm to witness and persuade others to embark on this same impossible task.  
(Heb. 7:19, Eph. 2:15)      **Or...**

### **If righteousness comes through the law, Christ died in vain. Gal. 2:21**

- Is it to allow God to actually change my prideful, selfish nature by progressively replacing it with the life and nature of Jesus Christ (it’s called sanctification). How, through His written words being made alive by His Spirit (Grace), which words, when they enter my heart as I believe them, literally conform me to Christ’s nature. As I thereby grow in Christ, and stay consistently under His forgiveness, God can increasingly love and bless others by directing my prayers for and my witness and discipleship to others. (2Cor. 3:18, Rom. 8:29, 1Pet. 1:4, Psa. 2:8, Mark 16:15, Mat 28:19)

### **We are being changed into the same image (of Christ)...      2 Cor. 3:18**

## **Prayer – what is it really all about ?**

- Is it a dry monologue from me to a seemingly remote God that I’m not sure is listening to let alone willing to grant my more and more half-hearted requests. (Mat. 6:7, James 4:3)      **Or...**

### **When you pray do not use vain repetitions...      Mat. 6:7**

- Is it a true dialogue, where I actually hear increasingly within my heart from a loving God who lives there. And who reveals to me the knowledge of His will, both for me and others, so that I can pray His will and then believe Him for its fulfillment. (John 14:23, Col. 1:9, 1 John 5:14 & 15, Mat. 21:22)

### **This is the confidence we have in Him, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us...      1 John 5:14**

## **Bible Study – which one of these two ways is it for me ?**

- Is it a duty, often boring, where I try, using my own human intelligence, to apply Godly principles from the scriptures to my life. Since my efforts meet

with such failure I often have a sense of condemnation when I open my Bible. (John 3:27, Mat. 11:25, 1 Cor. 2:14, Rom. 8:7) **Or...**

**A man can receive nothing except it be given him from heaven. John 3:27**

- Is it a delightful daily necessity, like eating, during which a living God causes individual scriptures, of His choosing, to grab my attention and speak to me personally. As my heart hears them He reveals their true meaning to me and then the very words themselves now alive in me, over time, begin to conform me to what they say. God thus working in me what I could not. (2 Cor. 3:6, Pro. 6:22, Pro. 1:23, Col. 3:10, 2 Cor. 3:18)

**The word of God which works mightily in you who believe... 1 Thes. 2:13**

**The Holy Spirit – something confusing or the key to the wonderful Christian life?**

- Is it something I really don't understand and have been taught to either avoid because of the strange and scary antics of some Christian groups, or to simply assume that whatever it is I got it when I was born again – even though my Christian walk lacks any true evidence that I did. (Acts 19:2, Acts 8:12-17, Luke 11:13, Gal. 4:6, Acts 5:32) **Or...**

**Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed? Acts 19:2**

- Is He God my Heavenly Father's very own Spirit coming to live in me the moment I voluntarily and deliberately surrender control of my life to Him and, truly believe that He takes control (the real beginning of the Lordship of Christ). Following which I increasingly experience the Holy Spirit in me leading me and causing me to:-

**And I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to ... Eze. 36:27**

- (i) Witness Christ to others in love and with amazing boldness. Acts 1:8.
- (ii) Pray with a new zeal, expectancy and sense of God's purpose. Rom. 8:26, Jam.5:16, Eph. 6:18.
- (iii) Receive an ever-deepening knowledge of God's beautiful nature, as more scriptures are unveiled to me. 1 Cor. 2:9-10, Eph. 1:17.
- (iv) Have a growing inner power from Him that is able to progressively overcome individual sins, habits and addictions of my flesh and mind. I learn thereby to walk more in the spirit than in the flesh and hence live in God's presence. Rom. 8:13, John 8:32, John 16:13, Rom. 8:9.

- (v) Receive increasing light on the kingdom of darkness including the ability to discern and resist being taken captive by the Devil's thoughts (true warfare). 2 Cor. 2:11, Eph. 6:17, 2 Cor. 10:4-5.
- (vi) Have the will and the ability to keep and obey God's words that have been personally revealed to me. 1 Pet. 1:22, Phil. 2:13.
- (vii) Receive, on a moment by moment basis, inward guidance, wisdom and direction from God in all the day to day decisions and choices I face in life. Isa. 58:11, Prov. 3:5-6, Rom. 8:14 & 16.

**As many as are led by the Spirit of God they are the sons of God. Rom 8:14**

**Faith – what does this key word, at the center of Christianity, mean to me ?**

- Is it something I only wish I had more of but I don't know how to get it even though I've tried. Besides this I've been told to be wary of faith lest I fall into the trap of others in trying to believe God for something that may not be His will. (Luk.17:5, Heb.12:2, Mat.9:29, Heb. 11:6, Rom.14:23) **Or...**

**According to your faith let it be unto you. Mat. 9:29**

- Is it my Heavenly Father revealing His will, both for me and for others, through specific scriptures He causes to speak to me – as I hear with my heart these now living words, the faith of Jesus Christ is imparted to me. Having thereby given me both the knowledge of His will, and the faith of Christ, God, who offers this faith equally to all, now desires that I continue to believe what He told me, so that He can bring it to pass.

**Faith comes by hearing (with the heart) and hearing by the (living) word of God. Rom.10:17 He that has (spiritual) ears to hear let him hear. Mat. 11:15**

I begin to discover that this is God's chosen means by which His will, while always done in Heaven, is actually accomplished here on earth. In the process I also learn that much of what happens here on earth is contrary to God's will - because the unsaved and many carnal Christians are neither submitted to nor under God's control.

Acts 22:14, John 10:27, Rom. 10:17, Gal. 2:20, Mark 11:24, Jam. 1:6, Mat. 6:10, 1 John 5:19.

**The whole world lies under the sway (control) of the wicked one. 1 John 5:19**  
**Hence we are to pray Father your will be done on earth as it is in heaven- Mat 6:10**