

THE WAY TO GOD IS THROUGH JESUS

John 14:9

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Most people have a close friend who they do things with, share things with and feel comfortable being with. God wants to have that kind of relationship with every person, but sadly, not that many want to have a close relationship with God and those who do don't always know how to go about it. Best friends understand each other and know what each one likes and dislikes, so it is with being close to God. How does one establish a close relationship with God? Jesus has made it possible for one to be restored to fellowship with God, can He also help a person feel comfortable in getting near to God? It can't be all that easy.

I. THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOD AND MAN

1. Considering the difference between God and people:

- The Bible reveals the nature of God:
 - God has unlimited power, unlimited wisdom, unlimited holiness.
 - God is the One who created all things and who keeps all things going and knows all things.
 - God is eternal, immortal and invisible.
 - God is the Supreme Being who fills the entire universe with His presence - Jeremiah 23:23-24
- The nature of man/people:
 - Mankind is mortal, finite in knowledge and understanding.
 - Man is the created one who is sustained by God who also supplies all his/her needs -
 - Acts 17:24-28

2. The difference between God and man/people is absolutely overwhelming:

- The difference between God and man is so great that mankind should be overwhelmed with awe.
- David gave thought to the difference in Psalms 139:1-12
- The Bible describes any time a person came even close to approaching God in all His glory, it was terrifying.
 - When God spoke to Moses for the first time, Moses was afraid - Exodus 3:6
 - When God spoke at Mt. Sinai everybody was terrified - Exodus 20:18-21
- How then can anybody hope to comprehend God and approach Him in a close relationship during one's life here on earth?
- Job experienced great difficulty with an experience with God - Job 9:32-33
- In the Old Testament there was no mediator between God and the people but in the New Testament it is shown that Jesus is the mediator now and people can understand more about God and approach him and have a close, loving relationship with Him.

II. HOW JESUS ACTS AS MEDIATOR BETWEEN THE BELIEVER AND GOD

1. Jesus helps believers grasp, comprehend, understand God.

- When Jesus came to this earth, He declared./revealed God to people - John 1:18
- Jesus knew God personally:
 - Jesus came to earth from God and is the only one who has actually seen Him - John 6:46
 - Jesus, however, is God Himself - John 1:1-2
 - There was someone called the "Word" who was with God and was God:
 - The One who came to earth in the flesh was with God and was God - John 1:14
 - The "Word" was Jesus, Himself!

- It is in seeing Jesus that one is able to comprehend/see God, the Father.
 - Jesus told His disciples that - John 14:7
 - The Apostles preached that Jesus was the complete revelation/manifestation of God -o Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:1-3
- It is in Jesus that God is revealed in ways that mortal, finite, mankind/people can understand and relate to:
 - As one studies the Gospels, he/she sees Jesus and all His attributes: power, wisdom, holiness, love, mercy, divine wrath, etc.
 - As one sees Jesus, he/she sees God and all God's attributes (same as those of Jesus).

2. Jesus helps believers approach God:

- By offering Himself as a "propitiation" for mankind's sins, Jesus has made it possible for a sinful person to approach God who is supremely holy and just.
- Also Jesus helps believers approach God as He acts as the believer's High Priest in heaven.
 - Jesus was truly God in all ways, He became a man and therefore He fully understands all the difficulties that people have - Hebrews 4:14-15
 - Being the believer's High Priest and being both God and man, Jesus makes it possible for the believer to approach God with great confidence and comfort - Hebrews 4:16

III. THOSE WHO ARE IN JESUS ARE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE WHO ARE NOT

1. Those in Jesus (believers/Christians) have a special relationship with God, the Heavenly Father:

- Their special relationship with God has caused them to have special names:
 - They are called "children" of God - Galatians 3:16; 4:6-7
 - They are called the "house," "family" of God - 1 Timothy 3:15

2. Those in Jesus have a special relationship with "a holy, supreme being:"

- There are also special terms which describe a special relationship with a Holy, Supreme Being:
- Believers are described as being a "special dwelling place of God" - the "temple of God" - 2 Corinthians 6:16
- Believers are also described as being "a royal priesthood" - 1 Peter 2:5, 9

CONCLUSION:

1. What a wonderful relationship believers have with God the Father and God has promised the believer: ***"...I will never leave you nor forsake you...."*** - Hebrews 13:5
2. Jesus is the ONLY way to God and only those who have believed in Jesus have the assurance of enjoying a wonderful relationship with God the Father.
3. Have YOU become a child of God by believing in Jesus Christ?
4. If YOU want to be right with God and have a close, loving relationship with Him, it is ONLY through Jesus Christ that this is possible. Will YOU let Jesus be YOUR way to God?